

Militants wage terror campaign in Algeria before referendum

ALGIERS (AFP) — Extremists have stepped up their terror campaign in Algeria slaughtering 118 men, women and children this month ahead of a controversial constitutional referendum boosting presidential powers.

As the date for the Nov. 28 referendum nears, the extremists have multiplied the killings, attacking villages and slitting the throats of residents who they say have failed to carry out their religious duties.

The press reported that a piece of cardboard bearing the words "Armed Islamic Group: The fate reserved for those who do not pray," and "Armed Islamic Group: Blood and destruction" was found under one of the bodies.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) is the most radical of Algeria's fundamentalist parties which have been battling the government for almost five years.

Algerian security forces and newspapers reported Thursday that the death toll was climbing with 42 people killed within 48 hours in various ambush attacks usually at night.

One attack took place near the town of Berrouaghia, south of Algiers, and left 11 members of the same family dead — six women and five men.

Another couple was kidnapped from their home overnight Tuesday and their bodies dumped several kilometres away.

Early Wednesday, 12 people, including four women and three children, had their throats slit in a village in northern Algeria in an apparent reprisal for their

opposition to Islamic fundamentalists.

At least 118 civilians have been killed in Algeria this month in the run-up to the referendum, which if passed will greatly increase the powers of President Liamine Zeroual.

The referendum has been denounced by the opposition and militants who have been battling the government in a bid to set up an Islamic republic.

The precise motives for the attacks remain unclear, but many seem to be revenge operations on civilians and against self-defence groups.

Several thousand such groups have been set up and armed with hunting rifles, old machine guns and even Kalashnikovs supplied by the army, with the encouragement of the Algerian authorities, to ward off attacks by extremists.

The fundamentalists rose up in January 1992 after the army intervened to cancel elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. The ensuing violence has left tens of thousands of people dead.

Authorities have been insisting for a year that they are now facing only "residual terrorism."

Algerian Prime Minister Ahmad Ouyahia, campaigning in the eastern town of Constantine to galvanise votes for the upcoming referendum said the "terrorism has been defeated."

But part of the opposition disputes the government's claims, saying that in fact the security situation is worsening and will deteriorate further with the holding of the referendum.



ISRAELI ALERT: An armed Israeli policewoman (centre) is on alert with male colleagues Friday as a Palestinian shopkeeper leaves his shop in the old city of Hebron after an alert went out that either shots had been fired or a petrol bomb had been thrown near one of the Jewish enclaves. It turned out that a bottle was thrown near one of the Jewish enclaves in the centre of the city (Reuters photo)

Egypt to join U.N. force for Zaire

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian troops will join the U.N. force expected to go to eastern Zaire, Egyptian government newspapers said on Friday, quoting a diplomatic source.

Egypt is contacting other African countries and the secretariat of the Organisation of African Unity on a joint African position on the Zaire conflict, the source added.

The newspapers gave no details of the Egyptian force.

The U.N. Security Council was expected later on Friday to authorise the U.N. mission for a maximum of four months.

Iran warns of retaliation against Germany over murder charges

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Friday threatened to retaliate against Germany for implicating its leaders in the 1992 murder of four Iranian Kurdish opposition leaders in a Berlin restaurant.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said that Bonn was also to blame for the charges levelled against Iran's spiritual and political leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei by German prosecutors.

"We have repeatedly asked German statesmen not to mix politics with the judicial process... as they would be sacrificing their country's interests," he told a crowd at the weekly Muslim prayers at Tehran University.

German federal prosecutor Ronald Georg said Tuesday that Ayatollah Khamenei and Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani had approved the killings in their capacity as members of a "committee for special affairs," Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian was also said to be a member and is sought by German justice for allegedly having personally ordered the killings.

As a retaliatory measure, Mr. Yazdi said his offices were completing a "hefty file" for legal proceedings against Germany for supplying Iraq with chemical weapons during its 1980-1988 war against Iran.

He said "many" families of soldiers killed or wounded from chemical attacks during the war had pressed charges against Bonn on "The well-documented basis that it was directly responsible."

The judge also charged that Germany had helped to improve the range of Scud missiles Iraq had fired at the Iranian capital Tehran towards the end of the conflict.

"We have not forgotten these, the files still exist, but we were not willing to expose them. Now unfortunately the German government has started to cooperate" in implicating Tehran in the killings, he said.

The Ayatollah has "made similar threats against Germany since the start of the trial of an Iranian and four Lebanese for the September 17, 1992, killings."

The Iranian Foreign Ministry for its part summoned on Thursday German Ambassador Horst Baechmann and told him Iran "will by no means tolerate such insults" against its leaders. "It is obvious that such baseless and hostile allegations will leave an undesirable impact on bilateral relations, and Bonn is responsible," Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarrafzadeh told the German diplomat.

"German judicial authorities under Zionist influence have entered a dirty political game with the Islamic republic by politicising the judicial process," Mr. Sarrafzadeh charged.

Prosecutors meanwhile sought life sentences for two men charged with the 1992 murder.

Bruno Jost, one of the prosecutors, requested a life term against Kassem Darabi, an Iranian suspected of working for his country's secret service, and the alleged mastermind of the attack. Mr. Jost also a life sentence for Abbas Rhyael, one of four Lebanese co-defendants. Rhyael is the accused trigger man in the shooting at a Berlin restaurant. The prosecutors' request was to be followed later in the day by defence arguments. A verdict is expected in January.

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Islamabad drops high-profile role in Afghan mediation bid

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's caretaker government has dropped the high profile role played in Afghanistan by the government of ousted Premier Benazir Bhutto, a report here said Friday.

The 11-day-old government has no intention of resuming the shuttle diplomacy to mediate a ceasefire between the Taliban militia and the forces of Afghanistan's ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani, the News, a local daily, said.

The government of interim Premier Malik Meraj Khalid has "no immediate plan to send an emissary to Afghanistan" for talks with warring factions or invite rival Afghan leaders for an intra-Afghan dialogue, it said.

The former government's Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar undertook repeated trips to the Taliban headquarters in southwestern Afghanistan's Kandahar city and the ex-governor's key ally Abdul Rashid Dostum's base in northern Mazar-e-Sharif.

Mr. Babar's efforts to secure a ceasefire stumbled on Rabbani's main commander Ahmad Shah Masood's insistence on the demilitarisation of Kabul, which the Taliban seized from his forces on Sept. 27.

The newspaper said the caretaker government preferred to wait for results of peace efforts by the U.N. special envoy to Afghanistan Norbert Holm.

Mr. Holm, trying to bring the warring factions to the negotiating table, last week held talks with the Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Mullah Muhammad Ghaus and General Dostum's representative Mohammad Painsa in Islamabad. He later told reporters that the Taliban appeared willing to pull their troops and heavy weapons out of Kabul once a ceasefire was signed.

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Studies find no unusual serious illnesses among U.S. Gulf war soldiers

BOSTON (AP) — Two huge government studies of more than one million veterans have turned up no evidence that men and women who served in the Gulf war face any increased risk of serious illnesses or death.

This is reassuring to veterans of the Gulf war, said Gregory C. Gray, who directed one of the studies.

At the same time, members of a presidential panel investigating a host of ailments reported among veterans of the Gulf war said stress is the most likely source of the illnesses.

The panel wants the Pentagon and other government agencies to continue examining the possibility that soldiers were exposed to chemical weapons. But it heard testimony from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) that an intensive probe has ruled out all but one incident as being caused by chemical exposure during and after the 1991 U.S.-Iraqi conflict.

"One of the major findings of the committee is that stress or the physiological effects of stress is likely to be a major factor," said Dr. John Baldeschwieler, one of the 12 members of the presidential advisory committee on Gulf war soldiers' illnesses.

Gulf war soldiers have reported a variety of unexplained illnesses such as memory loss, fatigue, diarrhoea and insomnia. Some blame the ailments, known collectively as Gulf war syndrome, on exposure to Iraqi chemical weapons.

No one, however, has proved that these common-place ailments are actually more frequent among veterans.

The latest research attempted to see whether those serving during the war five years ago are more likely to suffer illnesses that lead to hospitalisation or death. Other studies under way will look at whether they are unusually plagued by less serious health complaints of the sort that have been labelled Gulf war syndrome.

The two new reports were published in Thursday's issue of the new England Journal of Medicine, along with an editorial by Edward W. Campion, a Journal editor. He said the findings are unlikely to end the debate about the health consequences of the Gulf war.

"Many may disbelieve the conclusions of any government-funded study of this problem, including the two reports in this issue of the journal," he wrote.

In one of the studies, Han K. Kang of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington compared the number of deaths since the war among 695,516 Gulf war soldiers and 746,291 other soldiers who had been stationed elsewhere.

"There is no excess of disease-related deaths among Persian Gulf veterans," Dr. Kang said. "That is an important finding, in view of all the concern expressed by veterans and the public."

Dr. Kang said the study found no significant difference in the number of deaths between Gulf war soldiers and other soldiers who had been stationed elsewhere.

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Greek Cypriots denounce breakaway state

NICOSIA (AP) — Thousands of Greek Cypriot students marked the 13th anniversary of the establishment of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state with protests Friday.

Riot police blocked roads leading to the Turkish-occupied sector of this divided capital to prevent clashes with Turkish Cypriots celebrating the event.

Many of the students camped overnight near the only checkpoint linking the two sectors, singing songs supporting the reunification of the island.

Turkish Cypriots marked the anniversary with a military parade attended by dignitaries visiting from Turkey.

The island has been unofficially partitioned since 1974, when Turkey invaded and seized its northern third,

ostensibly to protect the 18 per cent Turkish Cypriot minority after an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece. The breakaway state, established in the north on Nov. 15, 1983, is only recognised by Turkey.

The anniversary coincided with a visit to the island by a senior U.S. State Department official, Carey Cavanaugh, who is renewing talks on reunifying the island.

Mr. Cavanaugh held separate meetings Thursday with Greek Cypriot President Glafos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş, and continued talks with other leaders and representatives of refugee groups Friday.

"We looked at efforts that could help a comprehensive settlement," Mr. Cavanaugh said. The demilitarisation of

the island and the use of a multinational force to maintain security afterward also were discussed, he said.

Mr. Cavanaugh noted that tension had increased recently after Turkish troops killed three Greek Cypriots in the U.N. buffer zone splitting the island, and the unsolved shooting death of a Turkish soldier.

Delegations representing the 200,000 Greek Cypriots expelled from the north after the invasion demanded dissolution of the Turkish state in appeals delivered to the embassies of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. They demanded the withdrawal of the estimated 35,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 settlers introduced to the north since 1974.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:05 The Adventures of Mickey and Donald

14:30 ...Circus

15:00 Doc. — La France Aux Mille Villages

15:30 ...Fete des Bebes

16:00 ...Sports — Gillette

16:30 ...Chris Cross

17:00 ...News Flash

17:01 ...Futures

17:15 ...Drama — Blue Healers

18:00 ...Serie — Jack

19:00 ...Le Journal

19:15 ...Magazine — Ziva

19:30 ...News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — Something Wilder

20:00 ...Doc. — Gardens of the World

20:30 ...Prism

21:10 ...Lois and Clarke

22:00 ...News in English

22:25 Children of the Dust (Pt. I)

23:15 Feature Film: "Yes Giorgio"

PRAYER TIMES

04:40 ...Fajr

06:00 ...Sunrise Doha

11:20 ...Dhuhr

King expresses appreciation for birthday observances

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein expressed his appreciation to the Jordanian people for compliments sent him to mark his 61st birthday.

In a Thursday evening telephone call to Radio Jordan, the King stated his gratitude to every citizen and maintained that he could not enjoy life to the fullest without serving his people.

"I cannot adequately express my gratitude to the Jordanian people for their overwhelming affection and allegiance and I beseech God to help me serve them for the rest of my life," the King said.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and the council of ministers presented the King with a gift of gold and silver plaques with engraved sayings by the late King Abdullah, King Hussein's grandfather and founder of the Kingdom.

The King expressed his appreciation for the gift presented in the presence of the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

In observance of the King's birthday several ministries and government departments organised processions in Amman, attended by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Thweib and other officials.

Slain embassy driver laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Omar Ahmad Ali Suboh, the Jordanian embassy driver who was killed by gunmen on his way to Baghdad, was laid to rest in his hometown of Beit Yaffa in Irbid Governorate Thursday.

The funeral was attended by Minister of Health Aref Bataineh who represented His Majesty King Hussein as well as representatives of HRH Crown Prince Hassan. Mr. Suboh's assassins stole his car and the diplomatic pouch that he was delivering to Baghdad, according to Jordanian authorities.

Jordanian embassy officials in Iraq said that the pouch contained official mail and more than 250 bank passports.

They said the diplomatic car makes the same Amman-Baghdad trip every two weeks to deliver mail.

Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nuri Lweiss condemned the attack and blamed the incident on the rise in criminal activity in Iraq as stemming from the UN embargo imposed on the country.

He said Iraqi authorities were investigating the incident.

Young volunteers to distribute gifts to underprivileged

AMMAN (Petra) — Young volunteers will distribute 44,000 gifts to underprivileged children as part of the nation's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's 61st birthday.

Sharif Zein Bint Nasser announced Friday after a meeting with a group of volunteers.

She said a volunteers' committee prepared a list of names of children to receive gifts in the various governorates.

The programme, which will be conducted through the end of the year, is being implemented for the second year under the theme "Child-to-Child Gifts," said Sharif Zein, who con-

firmed that last year, 45,000 gifts were distributed to underprivileged children in the southern governorates of Mafrq, Karak, Tafleeh, Maan and Aqaba.

Sharif Zein stated acknowledgement to the Royal Jordanian Air Force, the Fourth Royal Armoured Division of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and the team responsible for the special programme for the development of the Jordanian badia regions.

Amman approves JD9.83 m in municipal projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipal Council has approved several projects worth a combined total of nearly JD9.83 million, according to a statement following a council meeting on Thursday.

The municipality awarded the Civil Engineering Company a JD533,451 contract to dig a tunnel under the Middle East junction in southeast Amman to be carried out in 70 days, according to the statement. It said that it awarded the local firm Ahmad Abu Aisbeh & Bros. a JD 5,697,761 contract to erect a municipality office building at Ras Al Ain district in 400 days.

The council granted a contract to Al Masar Contracting Company, working in conjunction with an Italian firm, to dig a tunnel under the Wadi Haddadeh district for JD3,493,196.

Jordan hails economic results of MENA

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan emerged with a strengthened economic profile in the regional and international scene from last week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference held in Cairo and is now looking forward to concrete follow-up action on both private and public sector levels, according to Kingdom participants in the gathering.

They reaffirmed that the Kingdom was not expecting dramatic announcements of business deals from the conference, which ended Thursday, but that it had achieved the basic goal of reaffirming its economic course and business potential.

"Egypt made the best out of the conference, stemming from its role as host, but Jordan came in as a close second," said Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb.

Central Bank of Jordan Governor Ziad Fariz said he believed that Jordan had "consolidated its position on the regional economic map."

"That was our main purpose and we have served that purpose very well," added Mr. Fariz.

Mr. Abul Ragheb, who led the Jordanian team to the conference, said the Kingdom's presentation was well received by the gathering, both in terms of its economic restructuring programme and the business potential it offers.

"In the first place, we did not come to Cairo expecting to conclude huge business deals," Mr. Abul Ragheb told the Jordan Times, a few hours after the conference ended Wednesday. "Our strategy was to update the international business community on what Jordan achieved in the

one year since it hosted the last MENA conference."

"We accomplished it very well," he added.

Basem Awadallah, advisor at the Prime Ministry who presented Jordan's project proposals to the conference, noted that conclusion of business deals at the meeting itself was illogical to expect.

"We presented ourselves well, and we can expect to see the results in the days ahead," he said.

Klaus Schwab, president of the World Economic Forum which organised the MENA meeting, agreed. "The Jordanian performance at the conference was excellent. They did a very good job."

A "country lunch" offered by Jordan was one of the best-attended at a hotel near the Cairo International Conference Centre, and Mr. Schwab cited it as a reflection of the general consensus that Jordan presented a

very convincing picture of itself.

The thrust of the Jordanian presentation was the strength of its economic course supported by legislation aimed at attracting foreign capital and facilities offered to investors under a firm commitment to a free market economy.

"I believe that our approach was very realistic, and this was well accepted by the business community," said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

"We not only reaffirmed our commitment to economic liberalisation but also provided vivid examples of how we hope to achieve it through providing the right support structure, whether in terms of economic legislation or in facilities as well as business opportunities that we offer."

According to Mr. Abul Ragheb, new business contacts are an expected outcome of the conference, focusing on the projects

that the Kingdom presented as well as an intensification of ongoing discussions involving the private sector.

In political terms, Mr. Abul Ragheb reiterated what he told a plenary session of the conference.

"Business and regional economic cooperation needs a stable political environment," he said. "The slowdowns in the peace process are casting shadows over prospects for regional economic cooperation, and we are, of course, very concerned over the resulting political uncertainties."

However, Jordan remains hopeful that "the clouds in the peace process would be removed soon," he said. "There is only one way to go, and that is a peace which encompasses all aspects of the Middle East conflict."

Full text of Cairo Declaration

Following is the full text of the Cairo Declaration, the final statement issued by the Middle East and North Africa economic conference which ended in Cairo on Thursday:

On Nov. 12-14, 1996, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference was held in Cairo, Egypt under the presidency of His Excellency Hosni Mubarak. The conference, co-sponsored by the United States and the Russian Federation, with the support of Canada and Japan, brought together senior government and private sector leaders from the Middle East and North Africa, as well as from other parts of the world.

Conference participants thanked President Mubarak and the Egyptian government for hosting this event and for the excellent organisation and generous hospitality provided. The participants expressed their appreciation for Egyptian leadership in the quest for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Participants of the Cairo economic conference expressed their unwavering commitment to the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

on the basis of the terms of reference of the Madrid peace conference, established by U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. In this vein, they reaffirmed their determination to build upon the agreements reached among the parties and underlined the utmost importance of the faithful and expeditious implementation of those agreements by all parties in particular on the Israeli-Palestinian track. They further recommended themselves to broadening issues on all the Arab-Israeli tracks of the peace process. They urged all parties to pursue measures and policies which would help build confidence between the people of the region.

The theme for the Cairo economic conference was: "Building for the future, creating an investor friendly environment." The conference provided an opportunity to encourage international and regional investment in the Middle East and North Africa. The region's economic, commercial and trade potential was highlighted, which is being greatly enhanced by important economic reform programmes currently being undertaken by many states in the region. The reforms, which include privatisation, structural reform, and removing trade barriers have provided for a more business-friendly economic climate throughout the region.

International private sector representatives were given the opportunity to investigate in detail the increased economic and commercial opportunities in the region. Individual countries presented their investment and development programmes, and cross-border opportunities were highlighted as well. Constructive and fruitful discussions were held on topics of particular relevance to both the countries of the region and the international business community.

The participants stressed the crucial importance of the development of the Palestinian economy. They noted with concern that the already weak Palestinian economy is suffering from restrictions and closures which hinder the daily movement of Palestinian labour and trade. They recognised the need of all parties in the region to live in peace, prosperity and security, the improvement of which will enhance the economic viability of the region as a whole. They reiterated that removing restrictive measures and closures will prevent the decline of, and contribute positively to, the performance of the Palestinian economy, as well as the political atmosphere surrounding the peace process in its entirety.

The status of the economic institutions called for by the MENA conferences previously held at Casablanca and Amman was reviewed during the conference. The significant progress made on establishing the Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association in Tunis was welcomed by the participants. They underscored the importance of the Bank for Economic Cooperation and Development in the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo and its potential contribution to the promotion of capital flow to the region, to building infrastructure projects and to the development of the private sector in the region. The conclusion of the drafting of the agreement establishing the bank was welcomed. Countries were encouraged to sign an agreement and complete their funding and ratification procedures promptly in order to enable the bank to begin operations in 1997. Work on establishing a regional business council was also reviewed and the relevant parties recommitted themselves to moving this important initiative forward.

The executive secretariat of the MENA conferences in Rabat has continued to develop successfully its programmes and activities in fostering public/private partnerships in the region between conferences.

The activities of the REDWIG Monitoring Committee Secretariat, established in Amman pursuant to the Amman

declaration, and formally inaugurated and institutionalised in May 1996, were reviewed. The activities of REDWIG and the work of its monitoring committee in areas covered by the Copenhagen Action Plan, i.e. infrastructure, tourism, trade and finance were also reviewed. Participants expressed their appreciation for the work done by the committee.

Government and private participants at the conference reaffirmed their commitment to continue to work as partners for peace and prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa. They underscored the importance of the economic underpinnings of peace. Nevertheless, they reaffirmed the urgency of achieving concrete progress in the political dimension of the Middle East peace process.

The participants expressed their appreciation for the unique role played by the World Economic Forum, whose tireless efforts were critical to the success of the conference. They also expressed their gratitude to the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, for its important contribution to a number of conference sessions.

The participants decided to meet again in late 1997 in Doha, Qatar for the fourth Middle East and North Africa economic conference.

What's Going On

CONCERT

• Concert marking His Majesty King Hussein's birthday at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

• Performance of Christmas carols by the Abhiyah School for Girls' choir band at the Jordan River Designs, Jabal Amman, First Circle, at 4:00 p.m. (Tel. 613081).

EXHIBITIONS

• Aspects from the modern Jordanian plastic art by several Jordanian artists entitled "Message" at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 28.

• Works by Monkith Sa'id and Bert Hermens entitled "Untitled Diary" at Balqa Art Gallery, Pabeha, until Nov. 21.

• Photo panels and mosaics exhibition by German artist Yona Joest entitled "Petra — A Cosmological Dialogue" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Nov. 30.

• Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.

• Works by twenty-four artists (from Iraq, Holland, Lebanon, Vietnam, Spain, Greece, Curaçao, Indonesia, Russia, and Chile) entitled "Hond and Hamer 'Art in Cultural Transmission'" at the Royal Society of Fine Art, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 30.

• Photo exhibition by Basma Asfour entitled "Doubles Regards" at the French Cultural Centre, until Nov. 28.

• Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at the Institute Corvantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16.

The Central Bank of Jordan Issues Commemorative Coins on the UN 50th Anniversary

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, the Central Bank of Jordan wishes to announce the issue of silver and base metal coins. These coins will be sold at the Central Bank as from Sunday 17.11.96. Following are their specifications:-

	Silver coin	Base metal coin
Denomination	5 Dinars	5 Dinars
Alloy	Sterling .925 silver	Cupro - Nickel
Diameter	38.61 mm	38.61 mm
Weight	28.28 gm	28.28 gm
Shape	round	round
Edge	milled	milled
Price	JD 14.00	JD 5.00



- Obverse:**
- The portrait of His Majesty King Hussein.
 - The texts (Al-Hussein Bin Talal) and King of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Arabic.
 - The text (The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) in English.
- Reverse:**
- An engraving of the Black Iris.
 - The emblem of the UN celebrations.
 - The text (Black Iris: Jordan's national flower).
 - (1945-1995) to indicate the 50th anniversary of the UN.
 - The denomination written in English.

The presentation cases of these coins include certificates of authenticity.

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India to take remaining air crash corpses to Delhi

CHARKHI DADRI, India (R) — Indian authorities prepared Friday to fill trucks with ice and ferry the bodies of about 80 victims of the world's worst mid-air collision to New Delhi, officials said.

Dazed relatives continued to trickle in to Charkhi Dadri, a rural town 80 kilometres west of New Delhi, to identify the remaining bodies of the 349 people killed Tuesday evening.

Scores of relatives travelled more than 1,000 kilometres to reach Charkhi Dadri's main hospital.

Bodies, some charred beyond recognition, had been kept on melting ice slabs in an open courtyard and in rooms hastily converted into morgues.

The hospital is near the site where the Saudi Arabian Airlines Boeing 747,

carrying 312 people, and a Kazakh Ilyushin Il-76 transport with 37 people aboard, plummeted to the earth after colliding just seven minutes after the Saudi plane had taken off from New Delhi.

"We are removing all the bodies. The relatives and family members can identify these bodies at Delhi hospitals," District Police Superintendent Subash told Reuters.

Four trucks at the Charkhi Dadri Hospital compound were being loaded with melting ice slabs, ready to take the remaining 80 victims, wrapped in white sheets, to India's capital.

A senior police officer earlier described facilities for preserving the bodies as inadequate, while newspapers slammed authorities for a lack of coordination.

"We have asked the direc-

tor-general of health services to help us preserve the bodies because facilities here are not adequate," V.B. Singh, the police officer, told Reuters.

The Times of India said 51 bodies had been taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi Wednesday night.

"More than 12 hours after their arrival, the bodies were yet to be embalmed and put in coffins. Some of them lay in the sun with crows hovering overhead," it added.

The Times also spoke of fights for coffins and had a front page photograph of what appeared to be blood-stained makeshift coffins in the open air at the Delhi hospital.

By late Thursday, officials said 280 bodies had been recovered and 113 had been

taken away by relatives. Thursday also saw the mass burials or cremations of 76 Muslims, 15 Hindus and three Christians.

Authorities believed 32 bodies remain in the wreckage of the Saudi Jumbo, spread over four square kilometres, and three cranes were lifting heavy metal sections to find them.

All 37 victims on the chartered Kazair plane, which was taking businessmen to Delhi to buy goods, have been identified.

A Saudi newspaper said the victims on the Saudi airliner included 215 Indians, 13 Saudis, and three Pakistanis.

Authorities have not yet released an official passenger list indicating nationalities.

Nepal said there were 53 Nepalis on board the Jumbo, most of them headed for jobs in Saudi Arabia as manual labourers, drivers and plumbers. There were three Americans and one Briton aboard, officials said.

At Charkhi Dadri, funeral rites continued into Thursday evening as relatives wept by the light of hurricane lanterns.

Two Muslim clerics said prayers as about 30 bodies were lowered into one grave, and 18 in the other.

Nearby, 15 Hindus were laid on an eight-metre round pyre, clarified butter was poured over their bodies and they were cremated. A senior Hindu priest chanted hymns in Sanskrit.

Leaders of the two religions met to decide which bodies were Muslim and which were Hindu. In some cases, guesses were made because many bodies were unidentifiable after the fiery crash.

They decided 76 bodies would be buried as Muslims. About 91 Hindus would be cremated. Three Christians, none identified, were buried in a local Christian cemetery.

In Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, a Saudi aviation official said a Saudi Arabian airliner landed in New Delhi Thursday to fly home the bodies of Saudi victims.

The official said that so far the bodies of 11 Saudis



A Hindu relative stands in front of a mass funeral pyre for 15 Hindus after it was set alight outside the northern Indian town of Charkhi Dadri Thursday. The dead were among the 349 people killed when a Saudi Arabian Jumbo Jet collided with a Kazakh Ilyushin Il-76 cargo plane in the world's worst mid-air disaster late on Nov. 12 (Reuters photo)

Chechens remember warriors of Bamut

BAMUT, Russia (AFP) — Chechen separatist President Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev praised the "heroic" fighters of Bamut, who fought some of the fiercest battles of the war, at a colourful remembrance ceremony Friday in the shattered village.

Mr. Yandarbiyev, wearing a traditional Chechen tunic, long dagger and astrakhan lambskin hat, told more than 1,000 fighters and villagers that Bamut was the symbol of Chechenya's "holy war" against Russia.

"Chechen resistance fighters wanted to go and die in Bamut, because no one had ever heard of this small village, and now it was famous around the world for its determination and heroism," he said.

Russian forces took 15 months to capture Bamut, which is nestled in the foothills of the Caucasus mountains, southwest of the capital Grozny.

Its fighters, armed almost exclusively with short-range anti-tank and infantry weapons, fought off repeated ground attacks and Russian tanks littered the streets.

In May the Russians finally moved in after artillery and air bombardments which left nothing standing.

Today, the village is one of several in Chechenya which lies in total ruins. Despite two and a half months of peace, no one has come back to rebuild because of fear of mines.

Mr. Yandarbiyev told the crowd: "I found it hard to come and speak today because of the destruction and the fact I still have no concrete promises of help."

Reconstruction of tens of thousands of destroyed homes, as well as hospitals, schools and factories, across the republic, has become a top issue in peace talks.

Moscow is offering to give money for immediate social needs, but insists it will not pay for reconstruction, arguing that Chechenya still wants to become independent.

The Chechens say Moscow owes them between 100 and \$130 billion for "war damages."

"We have insisted and will insist to the end that Russia pays totally for the damages caused to the Chechen republic," Mr.

Yandarbiyev said Friday.

"We want absolutely orderly relations with Russia. But if Russia is going to change what we've agreed on, we will take measures to ensure the relations we want with Russia. We will not be dictated to," he said.

The Chechen interim government said that two of its officials had gone to Moscow Friday to pave the way for a meeting between Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Chechen Interim Premier Aslan Maskhadov.

A key condition for the premiers' first meeting will be an agreement on full withdrawal of Russian troops, said Akhmed Zakayev, an advisor to Mr. Yandarbiyev.

However in Moscow there was no official confirmation that a Chechen delegation had arrived.

In Bamut, fighters enjoyed the sunny day as they gathered on the former football field, helping themselves to meat cooked in huge, steaming vats and taking part in the passionate Muslim prayer ritual, the zikr.

Important commanders, including Shamil Basayev, who led the Chechen recapture of Grozny in August, arrived in convoys of jeeps and cars with tinted windows.

Children scampered over the ruins of the village school, waving rebel flags emblazoned with the Chechen wolf symbol and playing with rocket casings and other debris of war.

"The rest is good. Now I'm filming friends as a memento," said Ramazan Batayev, a huge 22-year-old who had swapped his wartime anti-tank launcher for a video camera.

"We're resting now and we like peace. But if the Russians don't leave us in peace and want to have another go, we're ready," another fighter, now in civilian clothes, said.

Despite the festivity, the pain of the war was everywhere.

Several people had amputated legs and many joined small groups to pray. Near the tent where food was being prepared, three bearded men in prayer caps held on to each other and cried.

Belarus leader sacks top election official in row

MINSK (AFP) — Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko fired his country's top election official during a live television broadcast Thursday, after the latter said he would refuse to validate the outcome of a constitutional referendum on Nov. 24.

However, under the present constitution, only parliament is empowered to sack the president of the electoral commission and the latest arbitrary decision by the pro-Russian leader is likely to further poison relations between the presidency and the rest of the political class.

Viktor Gonchar had said the referendum to give Mr. Lukashenko wider powers and more independence from parliament is flawed by "irregularities."

His removal would be one obstacle less for Mr. Lukashenko, whose referendum plan is strongly opposed by parliament and many senior officials.

Mr. Lukashenko has already announced that the referendum will have force of law while the constitutional court says it will not.

On Tuesday, Mr. Gonchar said there had been many breaches of the electoral rules in the preparations for the referendum, particularly regarding arrangements for voters unable to vote on the day to cast their ballots earlier.

He said he would refuse to sign and hence certify the results of the poll.

Mr. Lukashenko retaliated, accusing Mr. Gonchar of seeking to "block the democratic process," though he did not threaten sanctions.

But Thursday, during a television programme in which he was answering questions from viewers chosen in advance, Mr. Lukashenko announced that he had decided to fire Mr. Gonchar.

He said he was acting at the request of other members of the electoral commission allegedly dissatisfied with his leadership.

Mr. Lukashenko accused Mr. Gonchar of "abandoning the principle of neutrality" which went with his function, by having gone to Moscow Wednesday in the company of Mr. Belarus deputies opposed to the president.

Mr. Lukashenko himself was also in Moscow Wednesday, when he called in a speech to the Russian parliament for closer ties between Belarus and Russia, though the trip was believed to have been motivated mainly by electoral concerns.



Bodies of the 67 Muslim victims of the mid-air crash are laid in a grave for mass burial outside the northern Indian town of Charkhi Dadri Thursday (Reuters photo)

India extremists kill 14 in police station raid

HYDERABAD, India (R) — Left-wing extremists killed 13 policemen and one civilian in a pre-dawn raid on a police station in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh Friday, police said.

About 20 members of the outlawed People's War Group of Naxalites attacked the Sirpur village police station with grenades and automatic gunfire, state police headquarters in Hydera-

bad, 260 kilometres from the scene, told reporters.

The People's War Group is one of many Maoist groups considered part of the Naxalite movement, which started in India in the 1960s when the main Communist Party split. Naxalites also operate in West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states.

Police, in an initial report, said the extremists broke into the police station be-

fore dawn and fired indiscriminately.

They said 13 police, including a sub-inspector, were killed on the spot. A civilian was also killed and five other people seriously injured.

Further police details were not immediately available.

Adilabad, the district where the raid occurred, is one of the areas worst affected by extremist vio-

lence. The others in Andhra Pradesh are Warangal, Nizamabad and Karim Nagar.

The People's War Group has often used home-made land mines to attack police and government officials.

The group operates through the vast Dandakaranya region straddling four states — Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa.

Indian police go on alert after Miss World suicide

BANGALORE (AFP) — Police have gone on maximum alert here after a man burnt himself to death in protest against India's hosting of the Miss World Beauty Contest, a top official said Friday.

City police commissioner Sarat Chandra Burman told AFP: "We will go on full alert right away."

"Two thousand police, including 35 officers with commando operation experience, have already been deployed at the hotel where the 89 pageant contestants are staying."

Com. Burman, who is also waiting for a state court order allowing another 14,000 police reinforcements, was speaking after a 24-year-old tailor committed suicide Thursday in Madurai, a temple town about 450 kilometres south of Madras, the Tamil Nadu state capital.

Suresh Kumar, a member of a Communist youth group, poured kerosene over his body and set himself on fire at a crowded bus station in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, reportedly shouting slogans against the on-going pageant before collapsing.

Another senior police official, G.K. Bekal, said Friday: "There is apprehension that the Madurai incident could have repercussions."

The beauty contest, being held in India for the first time, has drawn bitter protests by Hindu and women's groups. Some feminists have warned they will burn themselves alive outside the venue of the pageant finale on Nov. 23.

A spokesman for the organisers said Thursday the beauty contest would go on despite the tragedy.

"I have no comment to make on this tragedy. Our heart reaches out to this person," said Ashwini Singla, of organisers Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Ltd. (ABCL). "The show is on. There is adequate security for the event and the police have everything well under control. We are not concerned about security threats to the contestants or to the event."

Aung san Suu Kyi set up car attack—Burma press

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's military authorities Friday accused Aung San Suu Kyi of setting up an attack on her motorcade last weekend in an attempt to discredit Rangoon in the eyes of the International Community.

"It is clearly a deception on the part of the woman and her co-conspirators to have more western pressure on the SLORC," an official commentary said in reference to Ms. Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD).

The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the official name of the ruling junta which seized power in 1988, was accused by Ms. Suu Kyi of being behind attacks on her motorcade by unruly mobs last Saturday.

"It was just a deliberate attempt ... to damage the political prestige of the steady and mature government which handles problems so pliantly and gently, though it happens to be

called a military government," the English-language New Light of Myanmar said.

Ms. Suu Kyi said the attacks, in which NLD Vice Chairman Tin Oo was slightly injured by broken glass, were carried out by paid members of a SLORC-sponsored mass organization — the Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA).

It was the first time the official press has referred to the incident, which came on the heels of a visit to Rangoon by two European MPs and as prominent U.S. Senator John McCain was in the capital.

The editorial, which did not refer to Ms. Suu Kyi by name, said "the woman who is a charlatan in politics" had incited crowds of "rootless" people to gather at various points and give the illusion of political instability.

Major insists on limited gun ban

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major has come under renewed pressure for a total ban on handguns from the parents of 16 children massacred by a crazed loner in a small Scottish town last March.

But Mr. Major, whose plans for a restricted ban came before parliament Monday, refused to back down and allow ruling party members to vote according to their consciences — which campaigners believe would mean the outlawing of all handguns.

Speaking after talks with the prime minister, parents of the slaughtered children said Mr. Major had repeated his arguments for pushing through only a limited ban.

But they said they had warned him that if he refused to change his mind before Monday, the handgun issue would return to haunt him at the election he faces in the next six months.

"On this issue, which is an issue of life and death, there is no compromise," said Les Morton, whose daughter Emily was one of the 16 killed at Dunblane Primary School in a hall of bullets by gunman Thomas Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton was armed with legally-held handguns.

"We don't want the gun issue to go forward to the general election," said Ann Pearson, a local mother of three who has helped the parents forge a highly effective lobbying group.

She accused Mr. Major of refusing to let Conservative MPs vote according to their consciences because he was afraid of losing the vote. "If it isn't a free vote Monday, people in this country will not understand why," she told a news conference.

The prime minister has come under fierce pressure from all sides for his plans, announced after an inquiry into the killing by Senior Judge Lord Cullen.

The massacre and the row over the ban have fuelled a debate over violence in Britain and whether the country's moral fabric is collapsing — a theme the opposition Labour Party has used to attack the Conservatives, in power for 17 years.

The government argues its plans, which would mean the only handguns Britons could possess would be single-shot .22-inch calibre weapons held in tightly

controlled gun clubs, go further than Lord Cullen's recommendations.

At least 80 per cent of Britain's 200,000 legally held handguns would be banned but sportsmen and women would still be able to prepare for Olympic target shooting events, it argues.

Opposition politicians say the ban does not go far enough while gun lobbyists have threatened to challenge any ban in international courts, saying law-abiding target shooters are paying for the actions of a madman.

Monday's vote depends on parliamentary arithmetic.

Mr. Major has an overall majority of one. But the nine Ulster Unionists from Northern Ireland, who usually support him, are expected to abstain. This means opposition parties need five ruling party members to rebel to get a total ban.

Mr. Major's insistence on making Conservative MPs vote according to the government line and the implicit threat of tough sanctions on anyone who rebels, make a victory for those calling for an outright ban unlikely.

Handwritten signature or mark.

Sea of refugees from Zaire heads back towards Rwanda

GOMA, Zaire (R) — Tens of thousands of refugees jekked through the eastern Zaire town of Goma towards Rwanda Friday following heavy fighting between rebels and remnants of Rwanda's army and militia groups.

"There is a sea of people right up to the horizon," said Reuters photographer Peter Andrews.

"There could easily be 100,000 of them. They are walking back to Rwanda," he said.

Ex-Rwandan soldiers and Interahamwe militiamen previously prevented the Hutu refugees from going home.

Hutu fighters, blamed for the 1994 genocide of some 800,000 mostly Tutsi people in Rwanda, were reported to have fled into the bush, having lost their bid to stop ordinary refugees leaving the teeming camps.

The exodus was from two sprawling camps at Mugunga west of Goma where as many as 400,000 Rwandan Hutus were living.

An unknown number of those on the move were brand-new refugees — Zairean nationals moving to Rwanda to escape a month-

old rebellion in the east.

"We left Mugunga an empty camp, we all fled because of the fighting yesterday," said Vincent Nzehe. "I am going back to Rubavu, Rwanda. There are no militia in the camp, they are all in the forest."

"I came from Lac Vert," said Ernest Habinhege. "I am going back to Gisenyi in Rwanda. The camps are empty."

Friday's mass movement took place as the U.N. Security Council prepared to vote on a resolution to send a multinational force to ease the plight of an estimated 1.2 million Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi scattered across war-ravaged eastern Zaire.

"They tried to get us to stay but all of us left the camp and are going home to Rwanda," said Jean-Marie Vianna, pushing a bicycle with one hand and holding a flapping Turkey by its neck in the other.

He had an enormous bundle on his head containing plastic sheeting, firewood and an umbrella.

"The forces fled after the fighting, they left dead in the camp but after two years

I am going home," said an old woman.

A woman gave birth at the roadside as hundreds of refugees streamed past.

Refugees told Reuters that the entire population of Mugunga 1 and 2 burst out of the adjoining camps at 5 a.m. (0300 GMT) despite efforts by the Interahamwe militia to drive them further west into Zaire.

The movement was good news for the International Community which, wary of the hazards posed in the lawless region, had warned they would not take on the armed Hutus — members of Rwanda's defeated ex-army and the dreaded Interahamwe militia — or try to separate them from ordinary refugees.

Without such action, aid workers and regional experts had warned the Canadian-led force risked ending in failure.

"This is fantastic news if it is true, we are checking it," said a Rwandan presidential aide. His government, which says it wants the Hutus back, has pledged that only those involved in the genocide have reason to worry.

The Hutu hold over the

refugees appeared to have been broken by six hours of fierce bombardment of Mugunga by the rebels Thursday. The rebels, openly supported by Rwanda, began shelling a few hours after confirmation that an international force would soon be sent with no mandate to disarm the Hutu fighters.

The United States, a reluctant volunteer to the multinational force due to be deployed within days, wants at least an informal ceasefire among the factions fighting around Goma before committing troops.

"What we would like is a pledge by the sides that there will be a ceasefire," U.S. Defense Department spokesman Ken Bacon told reporters.

Since they fled Rwanda with millions of fellow Hutus fearing revenge killings after the genocide, the Hutu gunmen have prevented ordinary refugees from returning.

Their presence has also destabilised the region and was a major factor in a rebellion led by Zairean Tutsis against the Zairean army one month ago.



Thousands of Rwandan Hutu refugees walk towards the Zairean border town of Goma, heading for the Rwandan border Friday after they fled fighting around the Mugunga refugee camp Thursday. The refugees were told to cross the border back into Rwanda and where put into transit camps (Reuters photo)

As the tattered refugees carrying possessions headed home, Zairean rebels checked them for weapons and let them walk the few kilometres to the Rwandan border at Gisenyi.

"The refugees don't look too bad but they are obviously tired from walking. There are many men among the women, children and old people," Mr. Andrews said.

The World Food Programme (WFP) and other U.N. agencies have prepared for months for the hoped-for mass repatriation of Hutus which appeared to have started Friday.

"We have 750 tonnes of food already in Gisenyi, enough to feed 200,000 people for 10 days. There is plenty of other food in the region we can shift around," the WFP's Michele Quintaglie told Reuters in Nairobi.

Protesters try to storm China's Hong Kong meeting

HONG KONG (R) — Pro-democracy demonstrators stormed into a plush Hong Kong conference centre Friday in an attempt to disrupt a historic meeting convened by China to choose Hong Kong's future leaders.

They were stopped by police before reaching the meeting, inaugurated earlier in the day by China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

Protesters had gathered before dawn outside the Hong Kong Convention Centre where the 400-member Selection Committee was due to start its month-long mission to select the territory's chief executive and 60 members of a replacement legislature.

As delegates were returning from lunch, about a dozen demonstrators plunged through a side door of the convention centre and were chased up escalators by police.

They managed to reach the sixth floor, one floor away from the meeting, before at least seven were seized by police as they unfurled banners and shouted slogans.

Eyewitnesses said that two prominent members of the Democratic Party, Andrew To and Chan Kwok-Leung, and independent activist Wong Chung-Ki, were among those detained in the building.

In a second attempt to storm the building, three screaming demonstrators were dragged away by police on the street outside.

Scuffles ensued and at least one policeman was slightly injured when up to 40 chanting protesters surged against crowd control barriers, waving models of black coffins above their heads to symbolise the death of democracy.

Some of the demonstrators had camped overnight outside the building where

Britain will formally return its colony to China in 228 days' time.

They were surrounded by police at dawn and herded behind barriers across the road.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy lobby has attacked the selection process and refused to take part in the Selection Committee which they have branded as undemocratic.

They are adamantly opposed to China's plan to dissolve the elected legislature and replace it with an interim provisional chamber until new elections are held.

Waving banners and using loudhailers, demonstrators chanted "we want a directly elected legislature" and "we reject the reversal of democracy."

Some of them held up black boxes, saying: "This is a coffin. It represents the death of democracy and freedom in Hong Kong."

Members of the Democratic Party had planned to pass a letter to Mr. Qian but were unable to get past police lines. An official eventually came out to accept the letter.

"We hope you will exchange views with Hong Kong people on the setting up of the provisional legislature and selection of the chief executive," the letter said.

The Selection Committee was holding a first round of voting Friday to narrow down the list of candidates to step into the shoes of colonial Governor Chris Patten when British rule ends at midnight on June 30 next year.

To qualify, candidates for the job of chief executive must be nominated by at least 50 members of the committee.

Two business magnates and two former judges are regarded as the front-runners in the race. The Selection Committee meets again on Dec. 11 to pick the winner.

North Korea again threatens to restart nuclear programme

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Friday again threatened to restart its nuclear weapons programme and break a 1994 accord with Washington, accusing the United States of bowing to South Korean anger over a submarine incursion.

"We cannot keep the nuclear programme frozen any longer only to get heavy oil ... with no importance given to the light-water reactors will be provided," the North's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The statement was a reference to South Korea's refusal to go ahead with the building of two light-water nuclear reactors (LWR's) for the North until Pyongyang apologises for the submarine incursion.

"As a result, the framework agreement, which was concluded by sincere efforts of the DPRK (North Korea) and the United States two years ago, marking an epoch-making occasion in ensuring peace in the peninsula, has now been at stake," the news agency said.

"If the U.S. is interested in the implementation of the bilateral agreement even a little bit, it must take a reasonable view of the present situation and have a responsible position," KCNA said.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman told AFP that Seoul saw nothing new in the threat, and monitors here noted that it was not carried as an official statement, but as a KCNA commentary — given less weight here than official statements.

"We do not see anything new in that threat because North Korea has already been complaining that the United States is delaying the implementation of the framework agreement on the excuse of there

being no change in our position that North Korea should apologise," the spokesman Suh Dae-Won said.

Seoul and Washington have both said they want the 1994 nuclear agreement, struck in Geneva, to hold despite the Sept. 18 incursion of the submarine which a captured crew member said was on a spy mission with 26 men aboard.

But Seoul, which has agreed to pay the bulk of the \$4.5 billion for the LWR's, has said Pyongyang should apologise before its engineers return to the North to begin construction work.

The agreement, which sharply reduced tensions in the region and which was guaranteed by U.S. President Bill Clinton, provided for the North to freeze its suspect nuclear weapons programme.

In return it would receive annual shipments of heavy oil until the reactors are built, and win a gradual improvement of ties with the United States which maintains 37,000 troops in South Korea.

Washington continued to deliver the heavy oil shipments despite the submarine incident, a fact which North Korea acknowledged through KCNA earlier this week.

U.S. Ambassador to Seoul James Laney said in an interview with the South's Yonhap News Agency over the weekend that he hoped the situation would cool between the two Koreas after the "provocative" submarine incident.

Mr. Laney also told Yonhap that he saw the North trying to drive a wedge between Washington and Seoul over the incident, attempting to trade on South Korean fears that the United States would go ahead with the 1994 agreement at Seoul's expense.



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Hopes and realities

THE MIDDLE East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Cairo concluded its work with the adoption of a declaration that differed very little from the two earlier declarations issued at the end of the Rabat and Amman MENA meetings in 1994 and 1995. The most distinguishing feature in the 1996 Cairo Declaration, though, was the strong call for the immediate implementation of the Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), an urgent goal that was not a contentious issue in the past when the Labour-led government in Israel appeared poised to respect its commitments with the Palestinian side.

Since the election of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the formation of his Likud-led government last June, the foundation of the peace process on which all MENA conferences are based faltered, and in the process undermined the very basis of regional economic planning. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa may have been more blunt and straight forward than others when he said in Cairo on Thursday that "the party, (meaning Israel) which encircles the Palestinians does not deserve to find doors wide open for regional economic cooperation." The Cairo declaration therefore ended up having more of a political tone than an economic one although the business community which attended the meeting may have succeeded in making contacts for the eventual conclusion of business deals.

The adoption of the final text on the establishment of a regional bank suggests, nevertheless, that the participants were hopeful that in spite of all obstacles, the peace process will eventually come to fruition and the regional political climate will ultimately become favourable for regional macroeconomic projects. This article of faith in a bright future for the Middle East and North Africa permeated the talks and negotiations conducted between the members of the private sector from all attending states, including Israel.

Still all parties which took part in the deliberations of the Cairo conference understood well that whatever they agree on, it will remain tentative and contingent on the conclusion of the stalled peace talks between Israel on one hand and the Palestinians, Syrians and Lebanese on the other. This puts the ball squarely in Israel's court. The Israeli government bears the full responsibility for the success or failure of all past and future MENA conferences. As long as Mr. Netanyahu is bent on dishonouring past agreements with the Palestinians and the Syrians, the future of the area would remain bleak. There can be no room for economic or business confidence in the region as long as the political climate between Israel and the Arab World stays charged with hostility.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ECONOMISTS AND politicians have been telling us over the past few decades that economy rules politics and that the policies of a country follow its economic interests, said Mohammad Barhouma, a writer for Al Ra'i. The politicians and government leaders have endorsed this theory by including economists and business people in their delegations visiting different parts of the world, he said. But, said the writer, the prevailing situation in the Middle East, especially in light of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, has proved that economy cannot survive and economic ideas can never see the light if the area where economic investments are to take place continue to witness political instability. The politicians and economists attending the Cairo economic summit have attested to this fact and stressed in their speeches and press statements that no economic investments can be made in the region unless the political atmosphere has improved and unless tension has been removed, according to the writer. It goes without saying, he added, that investors are attracted to an area only if it is stable and secure and only fools bring capital to a turbulent region, prone to conflicts.

ISLAMIST TERRORISM practised by extremist groups in Algeria and Egypt is more dangerous to the Islamic World than the foreign powers plotting against the Muslim people, said Hamadeh Faraaneha, a writer for Al Dustour. The terrorists are in fact doing a great service to the enemies of Islam by their massacring of women and children and by staining their hands with the blood of their adversaries who they could deal with through dialogue and in an atmosphere of democracy, according to the writer. He said the Islamic Salvation Front of Algeria has, in the wake of the terrorists attacks on civilians, condemned terrorism in its various forms, describing it as the work of outcasts trying to distort the image of Islam before the world, said the writer. In Algeria, the government is pursuing an oppressive rule and depriving the country of the aspired democracy while, on the other hand, extremist groups and terrorists have been fighting this government by murdering the innocent people, said the writer. He said that caught in the middle are sensible groups which demand democratic rule and an end to violence and terrorist acts. The writer said that only through democracy can extremism and terrorism be contained.

Jordanian Perspective

Stress on inter-Arab economic cooperation, in Cairo, sends message to Israel

DESPITE THE obvious brave face that Israel put out at last week's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference in Cairo, it is obvious that it was told in so many words by the Arab and foreign governments as well as the international community at the gathering that it could not hope to gain economic benefits and integration into the regional order unless it respects the agreements it has signed with the Palestinians.

Reaching an accord on Israeli redeployment in Hebron is not the real issue at stake here. What the Arab World is awaiting is a clear Israeli commitment that it would launch final status negotiations on the same principles that were agreed upon at the Madrid conference, most important among them the land-for-peace formula. We can understand and appreciate the Palestinian demand for a written guarantee from Israel that it would launch the process of withdrawing from other areas of the West Bank, as stipulated in the Oslo II accord, and that the final status talks would begin within a definite time-frame because an Israeli redeployment in Hebron does not necessarily mean that the Jewish state would not stall movement into the next phase of the peace process.

It would seem that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu has received the message that emanated from the MENA conference, as is evident from his decision to postpone a visit to the United States and seek to finalise a deal on Hebron.

It is also apparent that Mr. Netanyahu is anxious to pacify the Israeli business community, which is uproot within itself over the cold shoulder it received in Cairo as a result of his hardline policies, and to realise his declared objective of improving the country's economy to an extent that it would not need U.S. financial assistance in three or four years. Obviously those goals would be largely elusive without the right political climate, which depends upon Israel being fair to the Palestinians and Arabs in the peace negotiations.

That is where the significance of the MENA conference stems. The clear shift in focus of the meeting from business involving Israel to inter-Arab and Arab-African and Arab-Asian economic cooperation and implicit and explicit affirmations from key participants in the gathering showed that Mr. Netanyahu's hopes are faltering.

Whether Mr. Netanyahu accepts it or not, the universal theory is that international capital is a coward; it would simply refuse to stay away from areas of political instabil-

ity. As such, Israel is deceiving no one but itself if it is entertaining hopes that it could attract non-Arab funds and interact with non-Arab businessmen.

On the other hand, Israelis have been arguing that business with the Arab World is not a pillar of their economic ambitions, but that is not simply true. There is a very high potential for a major uplift to the Jewish state's business fortunes if it could economically interact with the oil-rich Gulf states and other Arab countries. It would thus mean that the Arab World does indeed wield a strong economic card to force the Israeli hand. But then it would come with a closely coordinated Arab approach to the issue.

The basis for that approach was set in the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit held in Cairo in June; what we need is crystallisation of that position in terms of demanding Israeli compliance with the agreement it signed with the Palestinians; this is the price for economic interaction with the Arabs. That is where it is going to hurt Israel, and without hurting Israel where it hurts most it is unlikely that Mr. Netanyahu would accept to be realistic in his approach to the Palestinians.

Business study unites Israelis and Palestinians

By Tova Cohen Reuter

TEL AVIV — Israeli and Palestinian business students, brought together by a fragile peace, avoid at least one tough subject as they pursue an advanced degree — politics.

"I really believe that economic ties are a common groundwork for producing long-term peace, and real peace. I think Palestinians in the class see that in the same way," said Israeli student Jeff Anker.

He is one of 40 students, including five Palestinians from the West Bank and two Jordanians, in an executive master of business administration (MBA) programme offered by Northwestern University's School of

Management and the Recanati School of Business at Tel Aviv University.

In the classroom, Anker said, students discuss the fact that politics affects business — "but we don't get into the politics itself."

When Tel Aviv and Northwestern decided to create a joint two-year MBA programme for American, Israeli and Arab students, they focused on the Middle East in the belief that business ties can make a significant contribution to the peace process.

What they did not count on was that the programme would be launched at a time when Palestinian and Israeli relations would sink to their lowest level in years.

"We have really hoped this would be a regional

programme. We were well on the way to attracting a number of students in the region and were very concerned the recent developments might harm that," said Donald Jacobs, dean of the Kellogg School.

The school year opened at a time of great tension in the Middle East. In late September bloody clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police killed 75 people and raised fears for the future of the peace process.

"We feared political tension would influence the programme, we thought some Arab students would cancel. Fortunately, this didn't happen. It is easier to get peace among nations than among politicians," said Recanati Dean Israel Zang.

The programme, most of which is held at Tel Aviv, is geared towards executives who continue to work as they study.

The political situation has had repercussions for the programme. One of the biggest headaches for the academic coordinators has been securing entry permits into Israel for the Palestinians.

The Israeli government provides only a limited number of day permits, mainly for Palestinians working in construction and agriculture.

Anker said students have been split into work groups, with one Palestinian, Sa'id Abu Hileh, in his.

"In the first week we were already faced with the logistical fact that Sa'id had to

cross the border every day and because of curfew had to be back every day by a certain time," Anker said.

"We feel the rules of what's happening around us yet we are trying to work towards the ideal of what will be in the future."

Anker, who is director of product sales for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa at Madge Networks Madf.O, a multinational maker of computer networking equipment, already has extensive dealings with Middle Eastern businesses.

While employers of the Israeli and American students foot the \$16,000 a year tuition bill for their workers, most of the Palestinian and Jordanian students receive scholarships from Israeli organisa-

tions and companies, such as Koor Industries Koor.Ta, the country's largest industrial concern.

Palestinian students also expressed a belief that this type of programme could go a long way towards strengthening ties between nations.

"Actually, this is building peace. I know more people in the world. 80 per cent of them are women. Over 50 per cent of them are women living below the poverty line."

"I hope in the near future the Declaration will see some (Israeli) students called for to do work in the West Bank City (Nablus)."

THE WEEK IN PRINT

'There can be no economic progress at the regional level without a genuine and lasting peace'

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

IN THE past week the local dailies tackled a range of subjects, which included the Cairo economic summit and local topics, ranging from the invasion of the Jordanian society by American lifestyles and sports to prospects for a new elections law. Also covered by the press was the question of redeployment of Israeli forces in the Hebron area and Turkish-Arab relations in the light of the Turkish foreign minister's visit to Jordan.

The Cairo economic summit was overshadowed by the failure of the peace process to settle the conflict between the Arabs and the Israelis since there can be no economic progress at the regional level without a genuine and lasting peace, said Mohammad Kawash, a writer for Al Dustour.

Indeed, the results of the summit were predicted by many observers in advance, added the writer, who referred to the Egyptian president's announcement before the meeting that there is no point in holding the economic parity as long as the Oslo agreements remain unimplemented.

The writer said that the only alternative is to revive the inter-Arab economic cooperation which has better chances of survival than a Middle Eastern order which Israel hopes to dominate.

Al Aswaq daily said one of the issues on the Cairo summit's agenda was the creation of the regional development bank, but neither the countries of the Middle East and North Africa, which are participating in the meeting, nor the European countries, which were supposed to have equity in the projected bank's capital, seem inter-

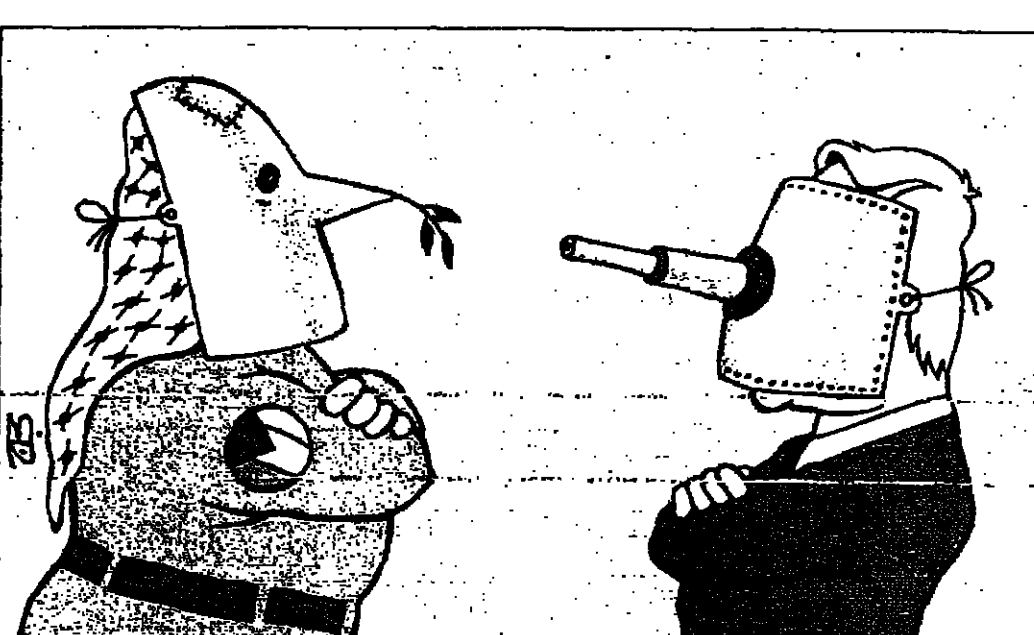
ested in it because the region has not realised its peace aspirations, on the one hand, and because the proposed \$2 billion capital is barely sufficient to cover regional projects that require manyfold that amount, according to the daily.

The MENA region, said the paper, faces the challenge of having to live through lack of peace and security, which are essential to attract investments and therefore the only alternative lies with the Arab countries which have to rely on themselves and pool their own potentials for development.

Zuleikha Abu Rishah, a writer for Al Ra'i daily, lamented the deterioration of the Jordanian culture and its trends to copy American lifestyles. She cited in particular the opening of the McDonald's restaurant, which has attracted thousands of people of all ages, and the American movies which depict violence and are presented by Jordan television.

The crowd at McDonald's reflects the degree of unchecked consumerism that has taken root in the Jordanian society, on the one hand, and the tendency, among the Jordanian people, to imitate the American lifestyle, on the other, said the writer. She said that the Jordanian society is more and more inclined to prefer everything that is foreign to anything that is Arab or Jordanian.

She added that the same society is being subjected to movies, through Jordan television, which idealise American acts of violence which are alien to the eastern and Islamic culture. Hosni Ayesh, another Al Ra'i columnist, echoed Zuleikha's views, criticis-



ing the way in which Jordanians are blindly following the American habits.

Writing under the title "The new American bases", the writer said that the opening of the McDonald's restaurants in Amman marks the establishment of a new kind of American bases in the midst of the Arab society, because this restaurant will help spread the American way of life in Jordan.

Warning against the consequences of American bases, he said they would eventually cause deep changes in Arab lifestyle and traditions.

He said that as the nations of the world are trying to end the presence of American military bases on their territory, the Arabs are opening their countries to a new kind of American invasion of their culture and society.

Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer for Al Ra'i, expressed the view that the only way to foster the spirit of sports and better their level lies with the schools. School sports and physical

education constitute the best method for building up a new generation of strong youths, intent on seeking and attaining high standards and enabling the country to compete with other nations in youth and sports fields, he said.

The schools used to give more attention to sports and physical education in the past and therefore these for can be utilised to save the deteriorating sports and physical education system, he added.

What is needed to achieve that goal, he added, is the construction of sports facilities for schools and the encouragement of teams from different schools to compete, first at the local level and then with clubs and youth organisations in other countries.

Reflecting on the elections law, Ali Safadi, a writer for Al Dustour, said that Jordan is in need of a new elections law that would achieve the aspirations of the Jordanian people. The Parliament, which resumes sessions on Nov. 19, should first discuss and pass a new elections law

that would avoid all the loopholes in the present law, pump in fresh blood and bring new legislators that can successfully tackle the issues and the difficulties facing the nation, said the writer. He said that it is a national duty for the government and Parliament to join hands in enacting a new elections law that would enable Jordanians attain their aspirations of ensuring justice and equality in their society.

Reflecting on the difficulties that are delaying the implementation of the Oslo agreements, Izzeddin Manasrah, a writer for Al Ra'i, said that since the Israelis and the Palestinians have now reached a deadlock in their negotiations, over this issue, they both need the cosponsors of the peace process.

The Americans and the Russians, who sponsored the Madrid peace conference, should pressure Israel into withdrawing their 400 settlers inside the Hebron area, which is inhabited by 200,000 Arabs, and so end the deadlock, he suggested.

The writer said that the

Israelis should not be allowed to drag the negotiations on and on indefinitely without any fruitful results.

The Israelis, he added, are delving into minute details over the Hebron question and in order to delay the implementation of the agreements with the Palestinians and abort further negotiations over the final status of the Palestinian territories.

George Haddad, a writer for Al Dustour, said that the Arab countries yearn to establish strong political and economic ties with Turkey which is a close neighbour of the Arab Nation. But, he said, the Arabs are deterred from such close ties by Ankara's policies towards them and its close ties with Israel and the United States.

The Turks joined forces with the West, which gave them the Syrian territory of Alexandretta, they aligned their forces with Israel, by deploying their troops along the borders with Syria in order to pressure Damascus into accepting Israel's terms in the Middle East peace negotiations, and their president, Suleiman Demirel, has called for expanding Turkey's borders eastwards to include the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Kirkouk.

The writer said that the Arabs have welcomed the rise to power in Turkey of Necmettin Erbakan who promised a change in Turkey's policies and they hope that this change will help build the aspired relations between Turkey and the Arab World.

...I attended... with 65 other... heads of state or... a summit of... in Geneva that... here today... sought to... a related issue of... importance; the... advancement of... The summit... by the Interna... for Agricultur... was the... of regional... that tapped... some of more than... from 80... its objective was... economic public... the rapidly dete... of rural... and to... of global...

...women are the... Of the one... people in the... live in... and 70 per cent... women. Over... decades, the... rural women... the poverty... by 50... strengthening ties between... nations.

...Actually, this is building... I know more people... women are the world... in the world. 80 per cent... of them are women. Over... women living below... per cent."

...I hope in the near future... women called for... commitment to... in the West Bank City... Nablus).

...to conference shrou...

...from page 1) ... Israel but the... find them... by Israel... that this... appeared to have... a good num... official Arab del... out any fruitful... Very few... been wander... blue and white... centre at... hall and... to hang... all businessmen... all businessmen... journalists were... at the press... to operate... heavily fortified... of a nearby...

...The Jordan... Dan Meridor... finance minister... the "warm wel... business-as-usual... which the Arab... delegation... at the confer... no feel isolated... the region is to be... one of only... along with... taken steps... over Israel's... of the West Bank... when as key... the Arab... spring day of the... raised its head... with the final... of the imple...

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'Empowering women, rural communities can be instrumental in responding to some major national and global challenges'

Following is the full text of Her Majesty Queen Noor's speech at the World Food Summit, Rome:



As the president of the ISC, and on behalf of our patron Her Majesty Queen Fabiola, members of the steering committee and our many partners around the world, I thank you for the

ties is evident and has been emphasised in the recommendations of the associated NGOs forum held here in September. That linkage is also recognised in the declaration of this summit, which acknowledges women's significant impact on world food security.

If we aspire to feed the entire human family at the global level, we should keep in mind who produces and provides food at the community level in most societies. It is the rural women who do so — but they do not always do so efficiently or sufficiently, due to inadequate education, social discrimination or legal obstacles that limit their access to land, credit, training, technology and marketing channels.

It is our hope that the world food summit's recommendations and implementation of its plan of action will contribute to ensuring rural women's right to equal access to social services and economic resources.

Productive as they are already, rural women are still the single least mobilised resource for balanced and sufficient food production at the global level, especially in the developing south where most food deficiencies occur. Rural women are the farmers, shepherds and gardeners of the south; they know where to get clean water and how to use it wisely; they know how to weed fields, control pests, and manage rangelands, for they store the cumulative wisdom and knowledge of generations past.

From my personal experience with community-based, development work in Jordan, I am well aware of the significant impact

rural women can have on the well-being of their immediate families and their larger communities. In my country, as in many other societies, the rural woman remains the anchor of her family and, in many ways, of the community.

With education, training and income-generation opportunities, she can raise food production and meet her children's nutritional needs, teach them good health and environmental practices, and improve her family's overall quality of life. In our work at the family and local community levels, we have succeeded in creating a national and regional model for comprehensive development, which addresses the integrated needs of those communities, with a special emphasis on the empowerment of women. This holistic approach has proved to be a most effective way to promote development that is sustainable and equitable on most every level.

Rural women may very well be a key to solving the challenge of increasing food production in a world plagued by environmental stress, rural out-migration, high population growth, and competing interests over finite natural resources. If they are to fulfill that potential, their different needs must be addressed in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

The world can produce more food in the short term through bio-technologies, crop diversification and rotation, integrated pest management and other scientific and technical means. But in the long term, these achievements, if not accompanied by equitable and balanced development, will remain vulnerable to the wider

threats of social turbulence and political instability, especially in agrarian societies where the basic production unit — the family — is under social, economic, environmental and political pressure.

The fast pace of rural-urban migration today — typically, first the men abandon the land, then the women and children follow — demonstrates how economic and environmental pressures ravage rural communities and aggravate food insecurity. In Jordan, for example, this human migration rose sharply in the past decade to reach a total of 75 per cent of the total rural population, up from 37 per cent in the 1950s.

We can only reverse this destructive cycle — that aggravates food insecurity by decentralising development planning and decision making, thereby empowering rural communities, and by ensuring a more equitable distribution of development benefits.

Political instability, military conflict and occupation, ethnic tensions, and autocratic governance are factors that disrupt economic life, undermine personal initiatives and hinder food security throughout the world. Furthermore, military expenditures, which are accorded the highest priority by most governments, usurp a disproportionate amount of national economic resources from urgent human development priorities. The vicious cycle of international arms dealing and conflict depletes economies, cripples development and creates a destructive pattern of dependency.

King Hussein, unfortunately, was unable to attend this summit due to

pressing commitments at home and in our region. Had he been able to address you in person, he would have spoken in greater detail about the linkages between a society's stability and productivity and the wider political environment.

The peoples of the Middle East are well aware of the critical importance of peace and stability to prosperity and quality of life. While we continue to seek, at the political level, a just and comprehensive peace in our region, we are struggling to build on the historical achievements of recent years to lay foundations of mutually beneficial intra-regional and inter-regional economic cooperation, that will inspire the confidence, trust and hope needed for building an enduring peace. The ongoing third Middle East/North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Cairo is intended to further expand that cooperation.

We must also hope that the MENA countries and their international partners will recognise the importance of ensuring the role and needs of women, especially rural women, will figure more prominently in future plans and projects.

We, in Jordan, believe that moving towards food security requires that rural women, small farmers, and others at community level who play such an important role in food production should participate actively in the political and economic decision-making process, within an enabling and satisfying environment of domestic political justice and regional peace. Our efforts to empower rural women reflect a belief that we share with the ISC, that they can be instrumental in responding

to some of the major national and global challenges, such as food insecurity, rural-urban migration, high population growth, and environmental stress.

On behalf of the International Steering Committee, I would like to thank His Holiness Pope John Paul II for his pertinent and important message in promoting an ethic of solidarity and equitable sharing of resources; and His Excellency President Scalfaro and the government of Italy for their support for the invaluable work of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and for their support to this summit; His Excellency the United Nations' secretary-general for his continuing support and emphasis on the vital and essential role women play in development and finally to the Director-General of FAO His Excellency Jacques Diouf, our host, for inviting the International Steering Committee to participate at this meeting and in particular for his exceptional commitment evident in the increasing focus at FAO on the importance of addressing the needs and empowering and mobilising women throughout the world to achieve the goals of this summit and of the FAO. On behalf of the members of the International Steering Committee I urge you to keep the issue of rural women a high priority on national and international agendas.

"Rural women are the world's poor. Of the one billion poor people in the world, 80 per cent live in rural areas, and 70 per cent of them are women. Over the last two decades, the number of rural women living below the poverty line has increased by 50 per cent."

The Geneva Declaration for rural women called for a global commitment to recognise and promote the economic empowerment of rural women as a vital force for development and peace. We pledged to work for the summit's goals by mobilising political will

and marshalling resources at the national and international levels to target rural women as participants and direct beneficiaries of development policies and programmes, and by advocating for their rights and needs.

This continues to be the mission of the 15 first ladies elected in 1992 to form the International Steering Committee on the economic advancement of rural women.

opportunity to address this important summit.

The direct linkage between the capacity of our world to feed itself and the ability of rural women to participate fully in the economic, social and political life of their communi-

Cairo conference shrouded by uncertainties of peace process

(Continued from page 1)

the siege on Israel but the Palestinians now find themselves besieged by Israel."

It was obvious that this message appeared to have sunk in among a good number of the official Arab delegates and businessmen at the conference. Very few Arabs were seen wandering into the blue and white Israeli business centre at the conference hall and they did not bother to hang around and talk with Israeli officials and businessmen there.

(Israeli journalists were hardly seen at the press centre of the conference. They preferred to operate out of the heavily fortified third floor of a nearby hotel).

Speaking to the Jordan Times there, Dan Meridor, the Israeli finance minister, stressed the "warm welcome" and business-as-usual treatment which, he said, the Israeli delegation had received at the conference.

"We do not feel isolated at all," said Mr. Meridor. But, he agreed, a snagged peace process does not bode well for business. However, Israel is not responsible for the prob-

lems in the peace process, he said. All Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had to do was "make that little final decision" and an agreement on Israeli redeployment in Hebron could be signed, clearing the way for the crucial negotiations on refugees, Jerusalem and other issues.

Implicitly contradicting Mr. Meridor, several Israeli businessmen admitted that they could have fared better in trying to deal with Arab counterparts if it had not been for the clouds in the peace process.

"Perhaps we understand the reasons behind the government's position" vis-a-vis the negotiations with the Palestinians, said one of them. "But it does not mean that we approve of the position. The heavy undertone here is an Arab message that 'yes, we can discuss business, but no real business until you move positively towards the Palestinians'."

It was the European Union (EU) which implicitly put the U.S. on the docks.

Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister whose country chairs the rotating presidency of the EU, did not directly refer to the United

States but the theme of his speech at the opening of the conference could not be mistaken. In essence, he said that the Europeans, who have traditionally strong geopolitical and economic involvement in the Middle East and have strategic interests at stake in the region, could not sit back and watch the peace process being destroyed. Europe, he declared, was going to try everything possible to put the process back on track whether anyone liked it or not.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher sought to shift the focus to the positive achievements of the peace process and the related economic developments. The record number of participants in the Cairo conference, he said, was a "vote of confidence" in the peace process.

The snags in the peace negotiations, he said, were being addressed and it was only a matter of time before the process was back on track. In the meantime, he added, governments and businesses should move ahead and consolidate moves to strengthen regional economic cooperation.

But not many were convinced. The general mood

among the wealthy Asian countries attending the conference was summed up by an Asian diplomat:

"For many years we have been hoping for a breakthrough in the peace process and it happened in 1993 (when the Palestinians and Israel signed the interim autonomy accords). But now, three years later, we find ourselves facing the possibility of a total block in the process."

It is not simply the problems over an Israeli redeployment in Hebron that is worrying, said the diplomat. "The question here is: Given the fundamental problems posed by the Israeli position, what is the fate of the peace negotiations when it enters the final status stage?"

"How can we convince ourselves that there is light at the end of the tunnel and then convey that to our businessmen and encourage them to do business here?"

"There has to be strong and fast movements in the peace process towards a solution that addresses all aspects of the conflict. Until that is achieved and we see the tangible results on the ground, all grand economic plans will remain largely in limbo."

MENA meeting calls on Israel to implement signed agreements

(Continued from page 1)

ference for the region is to be held in Doha, one of only two Gulf capitals along with Muscat to have taken steps towards normalisation with Israel.

Negotiations over Israel's delayed military withdrawal from most of the West Bank town of Hebron, seen as key to unblocking the Arab-Israeli peace process, dominated the opening day of the conference. It raised its head again Thursday with the final statement call for the implementation of accords.

(Continued from page 1)

bargaining table on Sunday. Israel army radio said Friday that Jewish settlers had drawn up plans to expand the Hebron enclaves and the settlement of Kiryat Arba next to Hebron into a city of 25,000 during Mr. Netanyahu's four years in office. The radio said the Hebron settlers had operated under the premise that with Mr. Netanyahu in office, redeployment plans would be cancelled.

Mr. Netanyahu's determination to go through with

redemption also cost him another key constituency — the ultra-orthodox Habad Movement which in the last days before the May 29 election had covered the country with stickers saying: "Netanyahu. It's good for the Jews." Habad support was seen as crucial in giving Mr. Netanyahu his razor-thin margin of victory over Mr. Shimon Peres.

Asked Friday whether Mr. Netanyahu was no longer good for the Jews, Hmuel Hefer, a Habad leader, said: "We don't

deal in slogans. But we are disappointed by a breach of promise."

The Haaretz daily said the Shin Bet security service decided to increase the number of bodyguards protecting Mr. Netanyahu after new threats were made against the prime minister's life.

Mr. Netanyahu's predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, was assassinated a year ago by a Jewish extremist opposed to the government's land-for-peace agreements with the Palestinians.



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World Bank calls for privatisation of region's infrastructure

CAIRO (AFP) — The World Bank called here Thursday for privatisation of infrastructure projects to help bolster stable development in the Middle East and North Africa.

The World Bank stressed that privatisation "brings the promise of better, faster and cheaper ways of providing the services that link economies and improve lives."

Kamal Dervis, World Bank vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, said the lack of foreign investment flow to the region was due to shortcomings in essential services.

Education and health should remain in the hands of the government, Mr. Dervis said, but other services should be handed over to the private sector which can ensure a cheaper and better performance.

Consumers would be willing to pay more to obtain better services, the

official said.

He urged the countries of the region to learn from the World Bank's experience in sealing contracts, legislation on transparency, price mechanisms, consumer rights and the settling of conflicts.

The World Bank also highlighted the shortcomings of essential services in the region, where it said 45 million people, most of them in rural areas, "do not have access to safe drinking water."

"Only 20 per cent of urban waste water is treated compared with 60 to 70 per cent in the United States and Europe," it said.

According to the World Bank, electricity production in the Middle East and North Africa is low when compared to other countries with similar levels of income.

"With respect to roads, only Algeria, Israel and three Gulf states are at or

above the lower middle income country average in terms of kilometres of paved roads," the World Bank said.

Among those at or below the low income country average it listed Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco and Yemen.

It gave the thumbs down for the telecommunications network in most regional countries, noting that in some countries users need to wait for up to a decade to obtain a telephone line.

"And even after service is installed, users have to put up with only about a third of their calls getting connected," it said.

And to combat illiteracy, poverty, disease and secure millions of jobs, non-oil producing countries in the region must aim for a six per cent target growth.

To meet all these targets, the region needs \$360 billion of invest-

ments a year until the year 2010, with the largest chunk of \$240 billion for non-oil producing countries alone, the World Bank said.

In 1995, total investments in the region stood at \$140 billion.

The World Bank listed seven countries which have already launched infrastructure projects, in addition to the conflict-ridden Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

It said they needed a total of \$220 billion over the next 14 years, or about \$15.7 billion a year.

A total of \$11 billion could be secured by these countries — Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, Algeria and Yemen — with the World Bank putting up \$1.5 billion and the private sector just over \$3 billion a year, the World Bank said.

Free trade makes waves at food summit

ROME (R) — Free trade burst onto the agenda of a summit called to fight hunger as Pope John Paul urged the world to put humanity before profit while the United States urged developing nations to free their markets.

The Pope urged leaders at the U.N.'s World Food Summit to devise policies "based not just on profit but also solidarity and sharing" to feed the world's 840 million under-nourished.

Without that effort, the struggle against the hunger would come to nothing, he told the summit of nearly 200 nations gathered to halve the world's hungry population in 20 years.

African governments seized on the Pope's appeal, saying the global race towards open markets was unfair to them while wealthy nations continued to subsidise their own farmers.

"In as much as the developed countries still continue to subsidise agricul-

ture...this free trade is really working against us," Ghana's Food and Agriculture Minister Steve Obimpeh told Reuters on the margins of the five-day summit.

Nigeria's farm minister said free market rules were welcome if everyone could compete on equal terms and avoid upheaval.

"They should not put any country at a disadvantage or create traumas that generate conflicts within countries to prevent them from farming and creating food for themselves," Gambo Jimeta told Reuters.

The United States, however, issued a forceful call for greater liberalisation, saying it would favour those who showed the will to improve their own food situation.

"Free and fair trade promotes global prosperity and plenty," Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, leading the U.S. delegation, said in a formal address.

"The leaders of the devel-

oping world must be furthest out front. They alone can enact the reforms necessary to pull their countries out of poverty and dependence," he said.

"In a time of limited resources, the United States stands ready to help those nations that demonstrate the political will necessary to achieve food security," he said.

The United States is the world's largest food aid donor and food exporter but has seen its assistance budgets come under increasing congressional pressure in recent years.

U.S. officials said Washington increasingly saw trade as a way of easing hunger by solving underlying problems of poverty.

Summit hosts at the U.N. food and agriculture organisation have been at pains to prevent clashes over trade policy, which plagued seven-year negotiations for a 1994 global trade pact, diverting the meeting from its main task

of reducing hunger.

But delegates said clear differences remained over how quickly developing countries should join the global economy.

Developing nations agreed in 1994 to lower import tariffs for farm goods in exchange for cuts in U.S. and European export aid, which they blame for driving their own farmers out of jobs.

The European Union (EU) recently restored export subsidies for grain after a year of record prices.

The United States has criticised the EU move, but Mr. Glickman told Reuters he had not ruled out reintroducing the U.S. government's own subsidy programmes in response.

Exporters themselves failed to put on a united front at the summit.

Canada's Farm Minister Ralph Goodale said other nations with surpluses should "rid the world of one of the most grievous instruments of food production distortion: Export subsidies".

G-10 central bankers give upbeat global economy report

BASLE, Switzerland (R) — Central bankers from the world's leading industrial nations have given an upbeat assessment of the global economy, noting with satisfaction that growth was putting along and inflation was under control.

Oil prices also seemed to be receding from recent peaks and currency exchange markets were mostly calm, said Hans Tietmeyer, president of Germany's powerful Bundesbank and chairman of the Group of 10 (G-10) committee of central bankers.

"The picture is that there seems to be further (economic) improvement on a worldwide level," Mr. Tietmeyer told reporters after he and his colleagues held their monthly meeting at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) in Basel.

While maintaining a central banker's traditional

wariness on inflation, he said the situation seemed to be well in hand.

"Monetary authorities have always to be vigilant, but for the time being it seems to be the case that the inflationary situation all in all is a positive one," Mr. Tietmeyer said.

"I am talking about worldwide," he added, declining to be specific when asked about outlook for inflation in the United States.

Mr. Tietmeyer said Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan briefed the group on economic prospects in the United States, but he gave few details about what was said behind closed doors.

"All in all we see that the current trends are mostly favourable. This is especially the case in the United States...The short-term outlook seems to be favourable," Mr. Tietmeyer said.

Japan was benefiting from improving consumer confidence and spending supported by an improved labour market.

"In Japan, the upward trend is continuing," he said, but added: "Of course, much depends on what will be done in the next fiscal year."

There were also signs of real improvement in Europe. Mr. Tietmeyer added.

"There is the continuation of growth in the United Kingdom and some upward trend in some continental countries — the Netherlands, Germany, and to some extent in France," he said.

Central bankers thought the outlook for inflation in Italy had also improved after being briefed by Bank of Italy Governor Antonio Fazio.

Mr. Tietmeyer played down the potential inflationary danger high oil

prices posed, saying the recent price rise had peaked.

"The highest level is behind us. There has been some decline, but oil prices are still relatively high and much depends on the future of the supplier side, which means the Iraqi question, and further demand," he said.

He was referring to prospects that a stalled oil-for-food deal between Iraq and the United Nations would move ahead.

Mr. Tietmeyer said central bank governors saw world currency markets as relatively quiet at the moment and did not come up at the G-10 meeting, which traders watch with interest for clues about policy.

"We have not discussed the currency markets because it seems all in all relatively quiet now," Mr. Tietmeyer said.

The G-10 actually comprises 11 countries — the United States, Germany, Japan, France, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Switzerland and Canada.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLF	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5060	0.6009	1.2750	110.83	1.3399	1514.70	1.6883	5.0880
DE Mark	0.6648	1.0000	0.3363	0.7460	73.63	0.6364	1036.27	1.2115	3.5367
GB Sterling	1.6643	2.5082	1.0000	2.1212	184.42	2.2300	2521.07	2.8095	8.4696
CHF Franc	0.7343	1.1925	0.4708	1.0000	96.51	1.0301	1187.67	1.3242	3.9904
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3578	0.5415	1.1498	1.0000	1.2081	13.66	15.224	4.5890
CAD Dollar	0.7500	1.1111	0.4464	0.9401	72.21	1.0000	1133.33	1.2552	3.7573
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9936	0.3963	0.8842	1369.11	0.8841	11.14	1.2553	3.7573
NLF Guilder	0.3367	0.7817	0.3556	0.7552	68.59	0.7553	898.98	1.0000	2.8363
FR Franc	0.1965	0.2958	0.1180	0.2505	21.75	0.2632	33.16	33.1600	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Previous
Brent	23.85	23.50
WTI	24.30	24.20
Bony	23.85	23.50
Uplink	21.85	21.85
UL Gas	22.00	22.00

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Rial	0.2686	0.4017	0.16024	0.3401	29.5735
AE Dirham	0.2724	0.41044	0.16373	0.3475	30.217
KW Dinar	3.3557	5.05561	2.01654	4.28082	372.162
BH Dinar	0.3785	0.4016	1.59617	3.38753	294.551
CY Pound	2.1754	3.2761	1.3066	2.7749	241.087

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz)	379.2	379.7
Platinum (oz)	353.7	354.7
Ag (100 lbs)	243.8	245.0
Cu (3 Months)	2112	2117
Zn (3 Months)	1022	1025
Lead (3 Months)	729	730
Al (3 Months)	7100	7120

Currency Deposit Rates (Bil)						
Cncy	1-3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
USD	5.18	5.35	5.40	5.48	5.50	5.50
DEM	6.03	6.21	6.29	6.37	6.40	6.40
JPY	0.34	0.34	0.51	0.50	0.59	0.59
DEM	2.84	3.06	3.06	3.16	3.16	3.16
FRF	3.30	3.33	3.42	3.45	3.53	3.53
CHF	1.72	1.88	1.88	1.93	1.93	1.93
ITL	7.51	7.28	6.96	6.74	6.69	6.69

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lb)	119.33	Spot
Sugar (c/lb)	310.5	Spot
Wheat (c/lb)	21.28	Spot
Barley (c/lb)	2.24	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates			
Currency	Buy	Sell	
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	
GB Sterling	0.278	0.279	
DE Mark	0.489	0.4713	
FR Franc	0.1388	0.1395	
JP Yen	0.0075	0.0076	
NL Guilder	0.4181	0.4202	
IT Lira	0.0000	0.0000	

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

1 Swampy terrain

6 As a matter of —

10 WWII battle

14 Rugged locale

15 Tennis great

16 Repulsive person

17 Wish for longingly

18 Daze

19 Helping hand

20 Start of a Ben Jonson quote

23 Fire

24 Type of poker

25 Make obscure

28 Work unit

31 Ermines

35 Swiss river

36 Damocles' menace

38 Monetary gain

39 Discolor

41 Observe

42 Moral precept

43 Aquarium inhabitant

44 Baker's need

46 Devour

47 Tries hard

49 Numerical prefix

50 Appends

51 Cooling desserts

53 Sunbather's objective

55 End of quote

61 O'Hara estate

62 Raced

63 Daytime TV fare

65 Religious statue

66 Constancy

67 Beginning

68 — Blanc

69 Make over

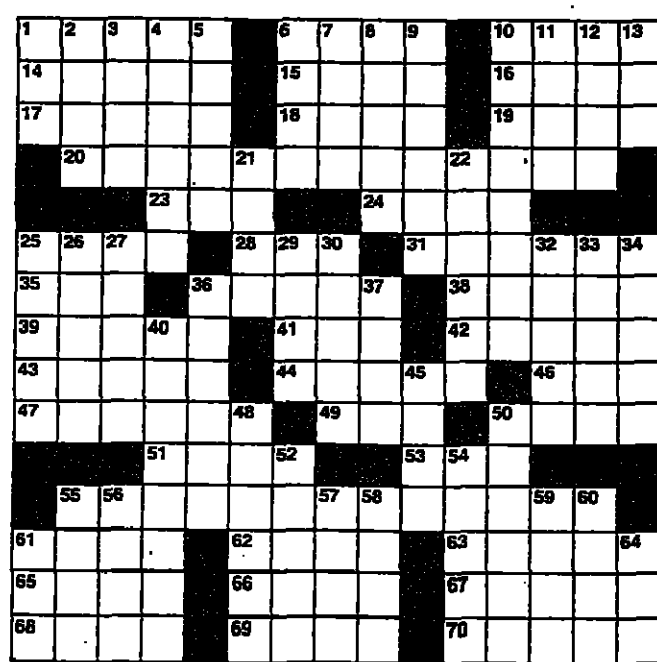
70 Fountain and Rose

DOWN

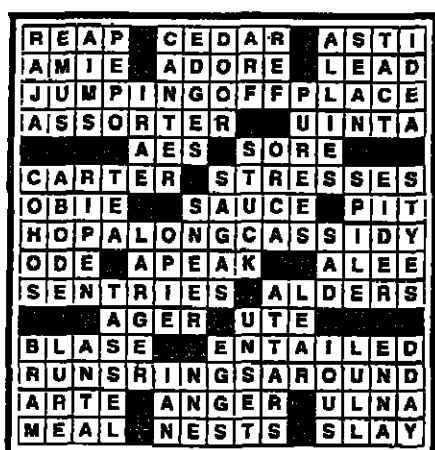
1 Merry month

2 My love is like —, red rose (Burns)

3 Raise



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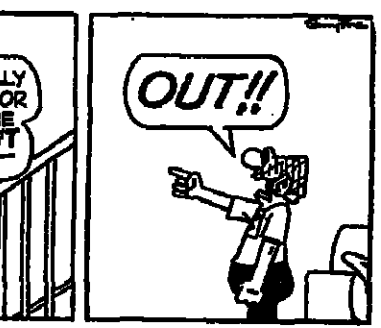
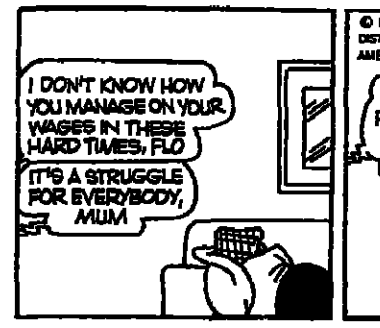


4 Rigid
5 Hair dye
6 Observe Lent
7 Concerning
8 Pals
9 Doctrines
10 Prominent one
11 Work arduously
12 Woman
13 Work by Keats
21 Was aware
22 Avenue of escape
25 Sew loosely
26 Rubber source
27 Imitate Cicero
29 Optimistic
30 Welcome
32 Suffered pain
33 Group of three
34 Religious orders
36 Seize unexpectedly
37 Beloved
40 Vexing thing
45 Location
48 Hunting dog
50 Whatever person
52 Push roughly
54 Fabulist
55 City in TX
56 Press
57 Made angry
58 Pianist Peter
59 Orient
60 Graf — (German vessel)
61 Tiny —
64 Urban res.

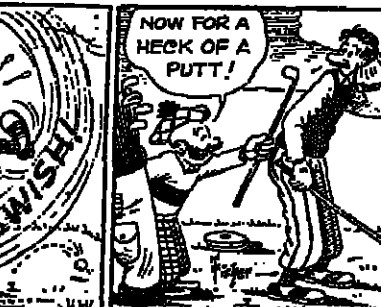
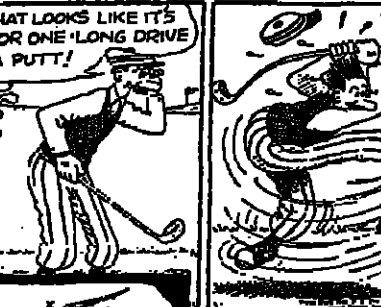
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your fellow associates have good ideas to talk over with you in the evening. This can lead to better understanding for the days ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You are able to gain fine benefits today and tonight. Discuss with a financial advisor how to add to your abundance for the future.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Spend some time with fellow associates today, and plan the next few days wisely. The evening can be very happy socially with good friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The day today can be most charming with the one you love and much happiness is possible. Make fine plans for the days ahead with an expert.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Getting friends to join with you and your family at festive activities can make this a delightful for your close friends and loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is a good day to remember big-wigs on this festive day today, and show them particular thought. Invite several close friends in to your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to start writing thank-you notes for nice gifts you receive, especially those you have received from out of town.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your intuition is good and you can establish greater harmony with your mate at this time. Later tonight you can discuss whatever is practical.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have an opportunity to help others out of their confusion today. Enjoy a fine family dinner with your loved ones this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is a good day to understand every phase of any situation and clarify it. Bring more cheer into the lives of other you come into contact.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be your gregarious self today and see as many good friends as you can in the days ahead. Show much affections for your mate and loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Home is the centre of activity today, and much happiness can reign there. Invite outsiders to visit your home and have a festive time.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye.

Israel, Egypt still far apart on Riviera project for Red Sea

CAIRO (AFP) — A project to set up a Red Sea "Riviera" linking Egyptian, Israeli and Jordanian resorts remains elusive two years after its launching amid differences between Egypt and Israel.

A key difference revolves around the setting up of a radar by the U.S. firm Lockheed Martin to monitor any shipping violation in the Strait of Tiran, at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba.

Rafael Benvenisti of Israel said his country was firmly opposed to the radar, stressing that the Strait of Tiran "was the subject of a war" and noting that the project was an Egyptian conception.

"All of us must remember that the Strait of Tiran is a very sensitive area that was the subject of a war and we must be reassured that all parties share the Gulf of Aqaba," Mr. Benvenisti told a regional economic forum in Cairo.

The closure of the strait by former Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser triggered the 1967 Arab-Israeli war because Eilat is Israel's main gate to the Far East.

Daniel Spoor of Lockheed Martin explained that the radar "will provide an alert to operators should a vessel create a dangerous situation or violate regulations."

It would also help prevent vessel grounding and collision and protect the natural resources of the area — home to the resorts of Aqaba (Jordan), Eilat (Israel) and Tabá (Egypt) — and rich in corals and rare fish and fauna.

A senior Egyptian official who declined to be named dismissed Israeli concern.

"Israel has fears of a military nature, although it is precluding freedom of shipping in the Gulf. The Jewish state simply does not want an Egyptian radar that would control its maritime traffic in this strategic strait," the official said.

The Riviera project — a series of 35 development schemes worth \$2.2 billion — is aimed at linking Tabá, Eilat and Aqaba with an 85 kilometre highway in a bid to bolster regional tourism.

It would allow tourists to move without restriction in these three resorts to take in the desert scenes of the Sinai, explore the undersea wealth in Eilat, trek across the Negev Desert or Jordan's Wadi Rum and relax on an Aqaba beach.

It also stipulated the creation of three airports and ports and the construction of more hotels in the area.

In addition three centres for the prevention and control of oil spills would be set up worth \$10 million and would be financed by the European Union, Japan and the three neighbouring countries.

"The area suffers from 40 to 50 oil spills per year because of marine transportation," Mr. Benvenisti said.

"Nature is the main asset of this region. We have to protect it and be sure that this porcelain museum is not disrupted," said the chairman of Egypt Tourism Development Authority, Adel Radi.

World Bank acknowledges error in rural loan curbs

ROME (R) — The World Bank acknowledged on Thursday it made mistakes in reducing support for Third World agriculture and pledged to spend more to tackle rural poverty.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn said the multilateral lender had switched tack to funnel more money into rural development. But it did not want to get into a "dollar race" by saddling poor nations with ever greater loans.

"We have...in the last 10 years reduced our focus (on agriculture), not deliberately but it just happened. And that has now been reversed," he told reporters at a U.N. food summit.

"I believe that in terms of poverty alleviation, when 70 per cent of the world's poor are in rural areas it is essential that we give much greater focus to rural development," he said.

He agreed with a reporter at a news conference who said World Bank spending on agriculture had more than halved to \$2.6 billion from \$6 billion over the past 10 years. But he said he expected the spending to rise "significantly" from there.

The Washington-based bank, whose clients are governments outside the industrialised world, said in papers issued at the World Food Summit that raising farmers' incomes was vital to meeting the summit's goal of halving global hunger in 20 years.

But on the summit sidelines, the bank drew criticism from action groups who said its free-market philosophy was keeping Third World nations in the rut of poverty and hunger.


Spanish-based Genetic Resources Action International (GRAIN) accused the bank of telling the world that "feeding corporate coffers is more important than feeding people."

Plans by the bank to push agriculture to the top of its agenda "stem less from concern for the well-being of rural people around the world than from recognition of the enormous potential for the market economy in this arena," it said.

Mr. Wolfensohn, chatting in a relaxed way as he defended the bank's goals, said he was open-minded about many criticisms but he knew of no better way to cure hunger than to encourage trade. The bank wanted to spread support for agriculture down the food chain to help farmers improve their income.

He related how farmers he had seen in India had been encouraged to grow taller maize by increasing their yields but had no better way to get it to market than on a bicycle.

Mr. Wolfensohn also used the summit to announce fresh moves to help some of the poorest countries deal with heavy debt.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHIRAZI TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (09/11/1996 - 13/11/1996) WEEKLY REPORT															
DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	MARKET SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
HIGH LOW															
249,000	243,000	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.42	13	1660	408590	246.50	246.50	246.00	246.00	-.50	246.139	.038	4
2,980	2,950	BANK OF JORDAN	10.5	0.00	5	11553	33581	2.98	2.95	2.90	2.90	-.08	2.907	.110	4
1,120	1,030	MID-EAST DEV. BK.	70.9	0.00	167	199825	316395	1.04	1.12	1.04	1.08	+.04	1.088	1.998	5
2,270	2,170	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.19	17	8225	18133	2.27	2.26	2.25	2.25	-.02	2.253	.074	3
4,920	4,790	THE HOUSING BK.	13.0	2.85	8	1047	25390	4.90	4.90	4.81	4.85	-.05	4.861	.933	5
2,650	2,450	JOR. INVEST. BANK	18.1	0.00	9	987	2487	2.55	2.55	2.49	2.50	-.05	2.520	.010	3
920	890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.3	7.87	23	51289	45414	.90	.89	.88	.89	-.01	.885	.254	5
3,660	3,500	ARAB JOR. DEV. BK.	18.5	0.00	1	300	1035	3.60	3.65	3.45	3.45	-.10	3.450	.003	1
3,750	3,690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	26	6561	24380	3.72	3.73	3.70	3.70	-.02	3.717	.045	3
1,510	1,480	ORIENTAL DEV. INV.	107.6	0.00	4	82	121	1.53	1.50	1.50	1.50	-.03	1.476	.001	1
3,250	3,200	JOR. DEV. INV. BANK	17.3	0.00	8	14517	46451	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	-.00	3.200	.145	3
1,940	1,800	REIT. AL-NAB. (REITERS)	7.2	8.13	1	100	185	1.80	1.85	1.85	1.85	+.05	1.850	.005	1
4,500	4,450	ARAB BANKING CO.	23.2	0.00	15	4208	18812	4.50	4.52	4.48	4.48	-.02	4.500	.418	4
1,370	1,280	PHILADEL. DEV. BK.	-	0.00	8	8002	7977	1.29	1.23	1.17	1.17	-.12	1.173	.068	3
BANKS SECTOR															
2,100	1,840	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.2	10.87	12	4450	8360	1.84	1.82	1.84	1.84	-.02	1.879	.202	4
INSURANCE SECTOR															
1,600	1,580	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.55	27	12171	13345	1.58	1.60	1.58	1.58	+.01	1.589	.081	5
8,310	8,310	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	17.2	2.06	10	4059	32440	8.31	8.00	8.00	8.00	-.31	8.000	.081	3
2,450	2,450	JORDAN MINERALS	12.3	5.60	4	1108	2768	2.45	2.50	2.46	2.50	+.05	2.458	.951	1
6,150	6,150	VEHICLE OWNERS FED.	10.9	5.69	2	1512	9299	6.15	6.15	6.15	6.15	-.00	6.110	.282	1
4,700	4,650	ARAB TEL. CO.	17.5	2.90	2	15020	66289	4.65	4.62	4.62	4.62	-.23	4.620	.167	2
2,540	2,450	SHIPPING LINES	10.5	8.06	3	10350	26372	2.52	2.55	2.48	2.48	-.04	2.458	.149	3
1,240	1,150	REIT. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	64	23675	25897	1.15	1.15	1.12	1.13	-.03	1.133	.454	5
4,950	4,910	REIT. PORTFOLIO	19.8	6.19	8	7900	7088	.91	.90	.89	.89	-.02	.897	.168	4
680	610	JORDAN TEL. TRAD.	31.3	0.00	20	7100	4395	.61	.63	.61	.61	-.02	.619	.209	4
7,600	7,600	ALARA 1	9.0	6.58	2	77	577	7.60	7.60	7.60	7.60	-.00	7.604	.004	1
1,690	1,610	MID. EAST HOTELS	75.0	0.00	2	400	690	1.68	1.74	1.71	1.74	+.06	1.725	.008	2
3,520	3,420	ARAB TEL. DEV. BK.	13.4	5.88	4	1750	5973	3.42	3.45	3.40	3.40	-.02	3.413	.017	2
1,140	1,040	SAKRA EDUCATION	9.0	0.00	15	5200	5453	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	-.02	1.049	.116	3
1,740	1,720	UNIFIED CO.	9.0	5.85	32	7950	13615	1.73	1.73	1.70	1.71	-.02	1.713	.159	5
930	870	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	2	175	155	.89	.89	.89	.89	-.00	.886	.004	2
SERVICES SECTOR															
3,470	3,240	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.8	3.05	75	29475	96923	3.30	3.30	3.27	3.28	-.02	3.288	.049	5
3,100	3,050	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	32.3	0.00	17	5294	15834	3.05	3.05	3.00	3.00	-.05	3.031	.012	5
5,630	5,450	ARAB POWER CO.	17.4	3.48	15	2074	15097	5.40	5.74	5.60	5.74	+.14	5.616	.003	4
9,280	9,080	JOR. PETROLEUM SERVICES	9.2	8.77	44	4720	43261	9.10	9.18	9.10	9.12	+.02	9.146	.074	5
7,200	7,200	JORDAN TOWERS	7.7	5.00	2	75	539	7.20	7.20	7.20	7.20	-.00	7.187	.088	1
1,290	1,210	WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	54.2	0.00	4	800	985	1.22	1.28	1.22	1.22	-.06	1.231	.080	2
2,210	2,050	INDUSTRIAL COMM. BK.	24.2	0.00	11	2147	6367	2.05	2.10	1.95	1.95	-.10	2.034	.043	4
6,960	6,960	JOR. WORKERS UNIONS	8.8	3.62	2	63	433	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90	-.00	6.871	.022	2
2,430	2,300	ARAB PHARM. IND.	17.5	0.27	81	13359	46620	2.33	2.33	2.30	2.32	-.04	2.301	.155	5
6,070	6,050	JOR. CHEMICAL IND.	7.5	4.17	6	3375	21446	6.05	6.00	6.00	6.00	-.05	5.999	.143	3
2,200	2,150	JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.98	4	161	343	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	-.00	2.130	.009	2
1,760	1,700	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	9.7	6.86	3	500	853	1.70	1.75	1.66	1.75	+.05	1.706	.015	1
1,420	1,410	RAFTA INDUSTRIES	179.7	0.00	4	1300	1821	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.42	-.04	1.401	.130	1
4,560	4,500	DAR ALADAMA DEV. INV.	12.5	4.40	27	7098	31994	4.55	4.57	4.45	4.55	-.02	4.507	.118	4
3,520	3,490	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.4	8.82	9	2659	9129	3.49	3.45	3.40	3.40	-.09	3.433	.064	3
710	570	LIVERPOOL & PORTLAND	0.00	0.00	178	184250	102231	.58	.60	.58	.58	-.02	.585	5.863	5
1,200	1,150	ARAB PAPER CORP. DEV.	7.8	9.01	21	7300	8447	1.16	1.16	1.15	1.15	-.01	1.157	.313	4
1,630	1,570	NATIONAL UNDS.	8.4	10.53	26	12600	7093	.58	.58	.55	.57	-.01	.562	.210	5
1,090	940	OVERSEAS PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	68	24050	23848	.98	1.02	.96	1.01	+.03	.992	.601	5
890	830	JOR. ROYALTY IND.	140.4	0.00	5	1350	1091	.83	.82	.80	.80	-.03	.808	.045	1
2,420	2,420	KAZAL. CABLE WIRE. HFAC	13.4	0.00	7	850	1902	2.42	2.30	2.20	2.20	-.22	2.238	.017	3
830	770	JOR. SULPHO-CHEN	-	0.00	9	3088	2452	.79	.82	.78	.78	-.01	.794	.077	5
1,360	1,170	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	22.3	0.00	36	10150	12062	1.18	1.24	1.16	1.19	+.01	1.188	.203	5
1,350	1,150	KAWHAR INVEST.	44.9	4.80	3	650	814	1.35	1.28	1.22	1.25	-.10	1.252	.033	3
1,540	1,470	DEV. INV. RESOURCES	4.7	12.82	118	47900	76275	1.47	1.40	1.46	1.56	+.09	1.551	.958	5
1,460	1,350	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	17.5	0.00	79	48837	62317	1.36	1.41	1.36	1.39	+.03	1.390	.560	5
920	890	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.4	0.00	27	12600	11239	.90	.90	.89	.90	+.01	.892	.158	5
1,070	1,790	EL-ZAY RAYED WEAR	122.2	0.00	22	12138	22867	1.83	1.91	1.80	1.90	+.07	1.884	.202	4
1,120	1,080	UNIV. TOBACCO	25.6	0.00	18	9100	9917	1.09	1.11	1.08	1.09	-.01	1.090	.091	5
1,060	980	UNION CH. & VED.	23.9	0.00	18	26613	25745	.98	.99	.95	.97	-.01	.967	.760	4
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR															
GRAND TOTAL															
1455 925595 1916360 INDEX NUMBER : 147.61 CHANGE : -0.09%															

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHIRAZI

TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (09/11/1996 - 13/11/1996)

WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST

3 WEEKS

HIGH LOW

	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	MARKET SHARES	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
5900	440 CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	23.7	0.00	50	47850	27589	.48	.62	.49	.59	+.11	.577	1.450	5
5900	540 JOR. TRADE PAC.	14.7	0.00	17	8300	4557	.56	.56	.54	.55	-.01	.549	.198	4
5900	470 KAZAL-COOPER. COOPERS	-	0.00	12	5381	2520	.47	.47	.46	.47	-	.468	.188	4
5900	450 ARAB FIB. INVEST.	-	0.00	126	231450	101460	.47	.47	.44	.45	-.02	.458	2.215	5
7500	710 UNIV. CH. CO.	-	0.00	64	146918	35290	.73	.72	.70	.72	-.01	.711	.759	5
9900	720 AL-DAMIRY 75K	16.0	0.00	49	49745	22846	.73	.71	.70	.71	-.02	.459	.355	5
1.0500	1.050 UNITED FOR FIBR. INV.	-	0.00	2	750	750	1.05	1.00	1.00	1.00	-.05	1.000	.071	1
5800	580 ARAB FOOD & MED.	-	0.00	12	4200	2635	.62	.64	.61	.64	+.02	.627	.120	4
5510	450 ARAB UNIV. INV. TRD.	-	0.00	29	51750	26843	.51	.54	.48	.48	-.03	.529	1.035	5
4900	360 JOR. INDUS. MACHIN-TRACO	-	0.00	13	22250	7944	.36	.38	.35	.35	-.01	.359	1.306	5
1.380	1.330 KAZAL. CHLORIDE	-	0.00	26	9750	12948	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.31	-.02	1.321	.135	4
6500	580 KAZAL. TEXTILE	-	0.00	1400	13999	600	.63	.59	.60	-	-	.598	.936	4
6400	630 UNIV. MEDICAL	-	0.00	6	2900	2467	.63	.64	.63	.63	-	.633	.390	2
7800	750 JORDAN STEEL	-	0.00	26	20842	15694	.76	.77	.75	.76	-	.753	.239	5
4900	460 ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	142.5	0.00	11	18000	8820	.48	.49	.49	.49	+.01	.489	.300	4
1.1500	1.080 UNIV. TOROCCO 75K	-	0.00	5	3375	2623	1.10	1.09	1.09	1.09	+.01	.849	.068	4
6300	600 RABY PHARM. 65K	-	0.00	4	800	204	.60	.61	.60	.61	-.01	.568	.008	3
6700	420 INDUS. ENG.	25.9	0.00	70	53470	22821	.44	.44	.42	.42	-.02	.427	.764	5
8200	790 INDUS. CERAMIC	-	0.00	10	4300	3381	.80	.80	.78	.80	-	.786	.208	4
6800	590 KAZAL. POWDER	-	0.00	4	3250	1995	.62	.62	.60	.60	-.02	.611	.033	2
9500	660 IND. BASE COMPLEX	7.7	0.00	81	151000	48100	.68	.68	.64	.64	-.04	.669	.723	5
9500	810 ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	56.9	0.00	12	67260	38218	.85	.82	.80	.81	-.04	.811	.788	5
5400	490 KAZAL. UNIV. ENG. NABISCO	-	0.00	44	66613	32321	.49	.49	.48	.48	-.01	.484	.222	5

IOC plays numbers game for Sydney 2000

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) — Olympic officials are meeting in Mexico this week to look back at Atlanta and look ahead to Sydney.

While Atlanta organisers give their final report on last summer's troubled centennial Olympics, Sydney officials are braced for a showdown with the IOC over the number of athletes for the 2000 Games.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will also complete the sports lineup for Sydney — including whether to drop whitewater kayaking — and hear progress reports from organisers of the Winter Games in Nagano, Japan, in 1998 and Salt Lake City in 2002.

And U.S. boxer Roy Jones Jr. could find out whether his controversial loss at the 1988 Olympics resulted from bribes to judges.

The IOC executive board is holding four days of meetings in this beach resort. Also in session is the general assembly of the world's 197 national Olympic committees, headed by Mexican media magnate Mario Vazquez Rana. Billy Payne, head of

Atlanta's organising committee, may hear more criticism of the rampant commercialism and the transportation and technology problems that tarnished the event.

A report by Europe's national Olympic committees is scathing on several fronts, including accommodation, transportation and commercialisation.

Bob Brennan, a spokesman for the Atlanta Olympic Committee for the Olympic Games, said the complaints were nothing new. He reiterated that Atlanta's city government, not ACOG, was responsible for allowing the proliferation of vending stalls.

Despite reports and speculation of a possible deficit, Payne is expected to confirm the Games at least broke even and may even show a small surplus.

With the balance sheets not expected to be completed until next year, Atlanta organisers said they are less than \$15 million away from meeting the \$1.7 billion budget.

Sydney organisers, who meet with the IOC board Saturday, were alarmed

when IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch

announced last month there would be an increase of up to 600 athletes from the previously forecast total of 10,000.

"We have to draw a line in the sand," Australian Olympic committee President John Coates said. "This is a very vexed issue and an emotional one."

Samaranch said the host city contract signed by Sydney officials when they were awarded the Games in 1993 stipulated the participation of a minimum — not maximum — of 10,000 competitors.

"The host city contract says SOCOG shall build a village for at least 10,000 athletes," said Jacques Rogge, a Belgian who heads the IOC's coordination commission for the Sydney Games.

"At the same time, our general desire is to keep as close as possible to 10,000," Rogge said. "The organisers have to respect the contract. But we will be reasonable. I'm sure the figure will be not very far from 10,000."

Rogge said the IOC should also finalise the sports programme for Sydney. None of the 26 sports which featured in Atlanta is expected to be cut, although there could be tinkering with certain events.

"There will be slight adaptations to the Atlanta programme," said Rogge, a member of the IOC panel making recommendations on Sydney's sports lineup. "There will be some changes, but not revolutionary ones. It's more like a fine-tuning."

With marathon and taekwondo already added, the IOC must decide whether to retain beach volleyball and women's softball, both having made their Olympic debuts in Atlanta. The answer is expected to be yes.

Less certain is the status of whitewater or canoe slalom, one of the disciplines in kayaking. Sydney organisers don't want the event, saying it would cost \$12 million to build a course with little after-use.

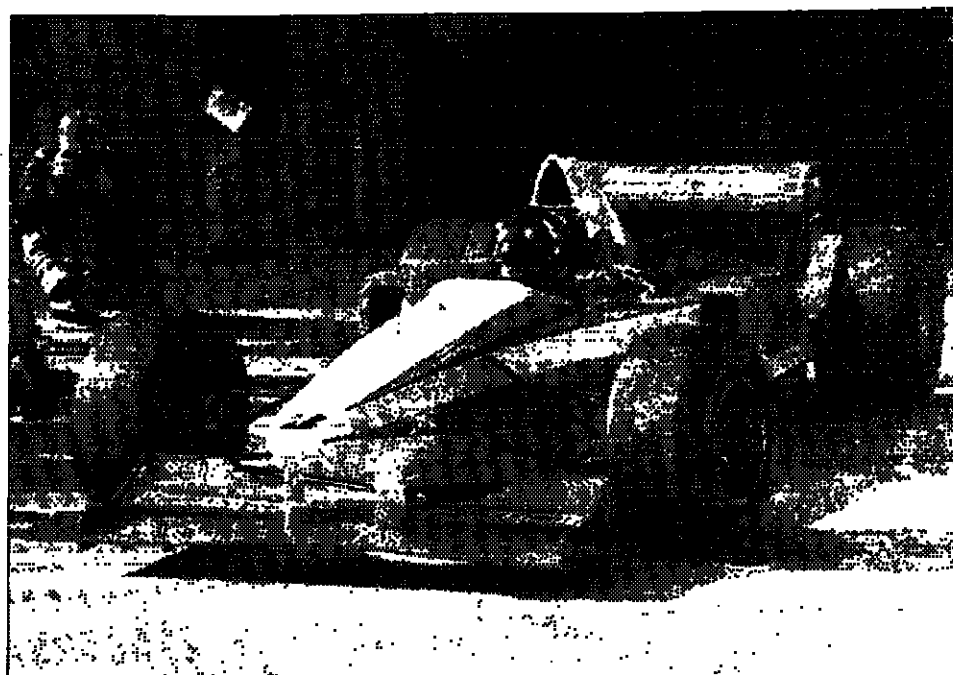
Lucky escape for Hill in test crash

SUZUKA, Japan (R) — Formula One world champion Damon Hill was fortunate to escape unhurt after crashing heavily while testing tyres for his new Arrows team on Thursday.

Hill lost control of his car at low speed on cold tyres on the exit of the hairpin and spun around before colliding with the wall on the inside of the track.

The impact ripped two corners off the car and wrecked the gearbox, causing the Arrows team to abandon testing a day early.

Hill was driving a Ligier for the planned two-day test because he is too tall to fit in the Arrows car which has not yet been adapted for



Formula One world champion Damon Hill drives out of his pit prior to a test run at the Suzuka Circuit. Hill crashed while testing tyres for his new Arrows team, but escaped unhurt (Reuters photo)

him. The team were evaluating the Bridgestone tyres which they plan using next season.

The former Williams driver had impressed his new team before the accident, setting a best lap of one

minute 40.14 seconds which broke the lap record for the car by more than one and a half seconds.

Hill said before testing began: "The purpose of this week's test is to get out there and establish where

they (Bridgestone) stand now and what their potential is."

"There will be the opportunity to go into several different directions I expect, so it's important for me to get up to speed with them."

Court grants bail to Graf's father

MANNHEIM (AFP) — A German court Friday agreed to release tennis star Steffi Graf's father, who is accused of tax evasion, on \$3.3 million bail.

Peter Graf, 58, who acts as his daughter's financial manager, has been in jail since August 1995 on charges he failed to pay taxes on millions of marks of her huge winnings. His trial began September 5.

A co-defendant, Peter Graf's former tax adviser Joachim Eckardt, was released on \$200,000 bail.

Graf is accused of failing to pay nearly 20 million marks (\$13 million) in taxes on 42 million marks of his daughter's earnings between 1989 and 1993.

Starks sparks Knicks past Raptors; Rockets edge Pacers

NEW YORK (R) — John Starks scored 13 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as the New York Knicks rallied for their fourth win in five games, a 99-96 victory over the young Toronto Raptors Thursday.

Starks, relegated to sixth-man duties this year, saw extensive playing time in the second half after Allan Houston turned an ankle early in the third quarter. He had 10 points in a 20-4 burst that turned an eight-point deficit into a 91-83 lead with 3:33 to play.

"I think that John gave us a good lift off the bench," Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "Allan was a little banged, so I stayed with John and he played very well for us. But Allan's O.K. He was able to come back in at the end."

Patrick Ewing had 25 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who beat Toronto for the second time this season and improved to 6-0 all-time against the Raptors, who entered the NBA last year.

Rookie Marcus Camby scored a season-high 29 points and Damon Stoudamire added 26 and 13 assists for Toronto.

Camby, the second overall pick in the draft, is averaging 26 points in his last three games.

"It was real tough but we should have gotten the win tonight," Camby said. "They are a quality team. They say the Knicks are supposed to go to the NBA finals, but we played them tough twice, so that says a lot about our team."

The Raptors led 79-71 with 11:27 to play, but Starks scored 10 points and Ewing seven over the next eight minutes.

"Give them credit, they made it a better skelter game," Ewing said. "Fortunately, we toughened up our defence in the fourth quarter."

"I just wanted to come out and be aggressive," Starks said. "Against a team that presses, you have to take it to the basket. Once you break the press, you have to attack it."

"The Knicks are lucky to get out of here with a win," Raptors coach Darrell Walker said.

In Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon scored nine of his 21 points in the final 3:35, including the game-winning jumper with 20 seconds to go, as the

Rockets edged the Indiana Pacers 90-88 for their eighth victory in nine games.

Charles Barkley had 25 points and 12 rebounds for the Rockets, who held the Pacers without a field goal over the final 4 1/2 minutes as they erased a nine-point deficit.

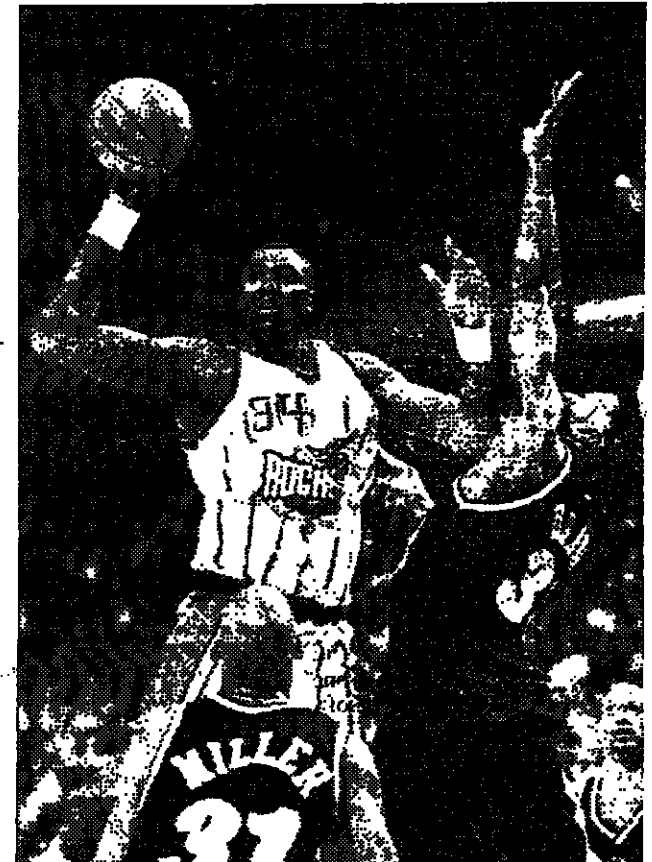
"We were very fortunate to win this game," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "We didn't play good basketball until the fourth quarter."

In Orlando, Nick Anderson scored 17 points and Penny Hardaway 14 as the Magic, playing for the first time in six days, defeated the Charlotte Hornets 96-89 for their third straight victory.

The Magic, who lost their season opener, were playing for the first time since winning two games against the Nets in Tokyo. Orlando has won seven straight and 10 of its last 12 games against Charlotte. All four players off Orlando's bench scored in double figures.

At Minnesota, Tom Gugliotta had a season-high 30 points and 11 rebounds as the Timberwolves posted consecutive wins for the first time this season with a 100-90 victory over the Dallas Mavericks.

Minnesota (4-3), in its eighth year, had never been over .500 this late in a season. Minnesota has won five straight over the



Houston Rockets center Hakeem Olajuwon looks to pass off after getting double teamed by Indiana Pacers Dale Davis (R) and Reggie Miller (foreground) (Reuters photo)

Mavericks and evened the all-time series at 18-18. In Vancouver, Blue Edwards scored 34 points, including four free throws down the stretch, to lead the Grizzlies to a 92-89 victory over Phoenix in Suns' coach Cotton Fitzsimmons last game.

Lawrence Moten, who added 20 points, hit a

three-pointer from the right arc to give the Grizzlies the lead for good, 88-87 with 28.7 seconds left.

Rookie Steve Nash scored a season-high 17 points for the Suns (0-8), who along with the Nets are the only winless teams in the NBA. Fitzsimmons announced his retirement before the game. Assistant coach Danny Ainge will take over.

At Golden State, Latrell Sprewell and Joe Smith scored 26 points apiece as the Warriors snapped a four-game losing streak, 95-86 over the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Warriors recorded their first victory in four home games. Vin Baker had 32 points and 14 rebounds for Milwaukee, which lost for the second time in seven games.

In Los Angeles, Gary Payton scored nine of his 25 points in the opening quarter as the Seattle SuperSonics raced to a 10-point lead and never trailed, defeating the Clippers 94-78.

Payton added eight assists while Shawn Kemp had 20 points and grabbed 15 boards for Seattle (6-2), which led by 16 points twice, including the final margin.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YASMIN HUSSEIN
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FROM DROSS TO GOLD TO DROSS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ 9 4		♠ 8 4 3	
♥ K Q J 10 5 2		♥ K 10 8 6 4 2	
♦ 7		♦ 10 5	
♣ 8 6 3		♣ 10 5	
SOUTH		WEST	
♠ A K J 10 7 2		♠ A K J 10 7 2	
♥ A 10 9 8 7 6 5		♥ A 10 9 8 7 6 5	
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 5		♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 5	
♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5		♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5	

The bidding: South 1♠, West 2♠, North 3♠, East 4♠. Declarer: South. The play: South leads ♠A, West wins. South leads ♠K, West wins. South leads ♠Q, West wins. South leads ♠J, West wins. South leads ♠10, West wins. South leads ♠9, West wins. South leads ♠8, West wins. South leads ♠7, West wins. South leads ♠6, West wins. South leads ♠5, West wins. South leads ♠4, West wins. South leads ♠3, West wins. South leads ♠2, West wins. South leads ♠A, West wins. South leads ♠K, West wins. South leads ♠Q, West wins. South leads ♠J, West wins. South leads ♠10, West wins. South leads ♠9, West wins. South leads ♠8, West wins. South leads ♠7, West wins. South leads ♠6, West wins. South leads ♠5, West wins. South leads ♠4, West wins. South leads ♠3, West wins. South leads ♠2, West wins. South leads ♠A, West wins. South leads ♠K, West wins. South leads ♠Q, West wins. South leads ♠J, West wins. South leads ♠10, West wins. South leads ♠9, West wins. South leads ♠8, West wins. South leads ♠7, West wins. 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Handball competitions kick off as JHF halts participation abroad

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—The Jordan Handball Federation (JHF) announced that it will halt participation in all competitions abroad until the level of the game nears competitive levels of other regional teams.

"We will stop any participation in all competitions abroad until we are ready," president of the Jordan Handball Federation Sari Hamdan Friday told the Jordan Times.

"We are slowly moving towards our target which is reaching an acceptable level where we can seriously compete with other teams," Dr. Hamdan added.

As with any game in Jordan, handball lacks the financial support, a professional full time coach, more exposure to regional and international competitions and more importantly — having a formidable national team.

"When all these obstacles are overcome we can then work and move the game outside Jordan and aim for another target," Dr. Hamdan said.

"International competitions need sufficient funds to spend on travelling and preparations. It is for that reason that we're concentrating on the game on the national level because it doesn't cost a lot," he added.

In addition to all the obstacles teams and the JHF face, there is an urgent need to have a full time national team coach.

"Talks are underway to assign the team with a professional full time coach," said Dr. Hamdan.

Meanwhile competition returned to the women's game Friday with the start of the 1996 Women's Handball Championship.

Although only three teams — Al Arabi, Al Orthodoxi and Kufroum — are taking part, the resumption of the competition is an important step for the game after a long absence of the women's competition because of lack of teams.

"Those teams have a lot of good players like Subad Haddad and Abeer Obaidat who need to be supported and properly trained to take them to an acceptable level of competition," he added.

Meanwhile the Men's Handball Championship started Wednesday with 10 teams taking part.

Here are the results of the first day of the competition

Salt — Kufroum 28-24

Husseini — Amman 24-24.

The Jordan Handball Federation suspended Hussein's Hani Bani Hani for 2 years and Amman's Mu'tasem Akili 5 matches for unsportsmanlike conduct.

World Bodybuilding Championship concludes with Hungary dominating competition

Jordan wins team posing award; Hasanein fails to qualify

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The 50th World Bodybuilding Championships concluded here Friday with Hungary dominating the heavy-weight class and qualifying to the Mr. Olympia championship.

Jeno Kiss, who had finished second in last year's competition, won the over 90 kilogramme category and then clinched another trophy after defeating all other five finalists to qualify for the Mr. Olympia competition.

Hungary also came in third in the best national team competition behind first place finishers Germany and second placed Egypt.

Jordanian competitors failed to reach the final six in each of the six weight classes. However, the Kingdom's team received the award for team posing after overcoming Spain and South Korea.

The only Arab winner was Egypt's Anwar Imawi who won first place in the 65 kilogramme category.

South Korea's Dong Ki Han won first place in the 70kg, Turkey's Erugrul in the 75kg, Ukraine's Oleg Zhur in the 80kg and Germany's Thomas Scheu in the 90kg.

Most improved competitor award went to Ukraine's Oleg Zhur.

Minister of Youth Mohammad Daoudieh deputised for His Majesty King Hussein at Friday's official opening and closing ceremonies. He then handed the championship flag to the hosts of the next World Championship, the Czech Republic.

President of the Jordanian Bodybuilding Federation Abdul Mun'em Abutouq expressed his federation's happiness at hosting this championship which brought together a record number of 78 participating countries.

"We are proud to have hosted the championship and we are pleased that international federation officials are very satisfied with all the aspects of organisation," Abutouq told the Jordan Times.

While holding the first World Championship was a landmark event in Jordanian sports, fans were disappointed when Mustafa Hasanein, a third place finisher in the 1994 championship, did not make it to the final six in his category.

Teammates Akram Salem and Ibrahim Srour qualified among the top 15 in Thursday's preliminary round but also failed to reach the final six.

Fifty international judges took part in the long process of narrowing down the 179 competitors down to the final thirty six in the six weight categories of bantamweight, (65 kilogrammes), lightweight (70 kg), welterweight (75kg), mid-

dleweight (80 kg), light heavyweight (90 kg), and heavyweight (over 90 kg).

Drug testing results took place prior to the preliminary round and the results were sent to the laboratories of the International Olympic Committee in Spain.

In case a competitor tested positive, he will be stripped of his medal and will also get a two-year suspension.

The World Congress of the International Federation of Bodybuilders also concluded its meetings here Friday.

The participating countries were: Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hun-



gary, India, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao, Macedonia, Malta, Mauritius, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, UAE, USA, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands, Yemen, Yugoslavia and Jordan.

Date draws Seles for openers in her final tournament

NEW YORK (R) — Kimiko Date helped conduct the draw Thursday for next week's season-ending chase championships and pulled out the name of Monica Seles as her first-round opponent in what could be her career-ending match.

The 26-year-old Date announced in September that she was retiring from the Corel WTA tour at the end of the season. Drawing the second-seeded Seles in the \$2 million tournament might mean a short stay in her farewell event.

"I want to play my best. I don't think about who I'm going to play. Anyone would be hard," the soft-spoken Japanese, who extended Steffi Graf to three sets in this year's Wimbledon semifinals, said through an interpreter.

The top-seeded Graf will begin her defence of the title against Karina Habsudova of Slovakia, with Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport seeded to meet her in the quarters before a possible clash with longtime rival Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals.

If Seles succeeds in defeating Date, she could face a fast re-match with seventh-seeded Martina Hingis of Switzerland, who flattened her in the final in Oakland last week.

Sixth-seeded Anke Huber of Germany, who battled Graf through five scintillating sets in last year's final, figures to meet fourth seed Conchita Martinez in the other quarter of the bottom half of the draw.

Date is winless in four previous matches against Seles, but the Japanese has thrived in two prior appearances in the elite, 16-player event on the blue carpet at Madison Square Garden.

"I've played here last year and the year before and I played really well here," Date said. I feel comfortable playing before the New York fans.

Last year, Date defeated Jana Novotna to reach the quarter-finals. As a first-

time participant in 1994, she fought off five match points in the third set and went on to win a tie-break to upset Conchita Martinez in the quarters before losing to eventual winner Gabriela Sabatini in three sets.

Date, Japan's greatest player, is closing the book on a career that has seen her become the first Japanese woman to play in the semifinals at the French Open (1995), the first to reach Wimbledon semifinals (1996) and the first in 21 years to appear in the Australian Open semifinals (1994).

Tuesday night has already been set aside as Kimiko Date night at the Garden, but the Japanese star, who has won twice this year, does not want to look ahead.

"I have no idea if I'll be emotional or not," she said. "I'll try to stay calm as usual so I can play my best."

It was the closest vote since 1960 when Roger Maris also won by three points, beating out New York Yankees teammate Mickey Mantle 225-222. In 1947, Joe Dimaggio of the

Yankees edged Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox by a single point, 202-201.

Gonzalez became just the second Puerto Rican to win the A.L. MVP, joining reliever Willie Hernandez, who won with the Detroit Tigers in 1984.

"This is a great honour for me," Gonzalez told the Rangers from his home in Vega Baja, Puerto Rico. "This award is for my teammates, the great fans of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the people of Puerto Rico."

The 27-year-old Gonzalez got 11 first-place votes and Rodriguez received 10 from the panel of members of the Baseball Writers Association of America, comprised of two writers from each A.L. City.

Belle finished with a pair of first-place votes, while Rodriguez's teammate Ken Griffey Jr finished fourth with 188 points and four first-place votes. The remaining first-place vote went to Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez, who was 10th overall.

Gonzalez, the first outfielder to win the award since Oakland's Rickey Henderson in 1990, hit .314 with 47 home runs and 144 runs batted in in leading the Rangers to the Western Division title.

The two-time homer champion, a brilliant batsman who has been plagued by injuries at times throughout his career, had his best season in 1996 to help the Rangers hold off the charging Mariners. He is the second ranger to win the award, after Jeff Burroughs in 1974.

Rodriguez would have been the youngest player and first mariner to win the MVP.

The New York-born Miami resident claimed the batting title with a .358 average and unlike most shortstops also hit for power, leading the Majors with 379 total bases in his first full season. He had 36 homers and 123 rbi, a Major League-best 54 doubles and a league-leading 141 runs scored.

Gonzalez edges Rodriguez for American League MVP award

NEW YORK (R) — Juan Gonzalez, who led the Texas Rangers to the playoffs for the first time in the Franchise's 36-year history, was rewarded on Thursday with the American League's most valuable player award in one of the tightest votes ever.

The Puerto Rican outfielder edged 21-year-old Alex Rodriguez, the whiz kid shortstop from the Seattle Mariners, by only three points, 290-287. Albert Belle of the Cleveland Indians was third with 228 points.

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Tunisia's Etoile seek 2nd African Cup title

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Tunisia's Etoile Sahel are counting on their 100 percent home record to give them the edge in Sunday's first leg of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup final against Kawkab Marrakesh of Morocco.

Sahel are seeking to become the first team to win the tournament twice, after their success last year, and will be hoping to set up a comfortable lead in the first leg in Sousse.

The Tunisian club, who boast several internationals in their starting line-up and are coached by Brazilian Pablo Rumi, have won all their home games in the last two years of the competition and have amassed 19 goals in eight matches.

This year the Tunisians have been helped by seven goals in the competition from Samir Rahmane and five from the exciting young talent of Imed Ben Younes.

But their preparations for the final were hit by the absence of several key players on World Cup duty with the Tunisian national team last week.

Sahel's Riadh Jelassi scored the last-minute winner that gave Tunisia a 1-0 away win over Liberia last Sunday.

Kawkab will be playing in their first African Cup final and have

enjoyed a relatively easy passage through the competition.

After a first-round walkover they beat teams from Congo, reunion and Kenya on their way to the final.

The second leg will be played in Marrakesh on Dec. 1.

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

Israeli ruling to allow 'physical force' under fire from investigator

GENEVA (Agencies) — A leading member of the U.N. anti-torture body on Friday criticised an Israeli court decision allowing police to use physical force against a Palestinian detainee, saying it risked sanctioning torture.

Israel's high court on Thursday overturned an interim court order forbidding the Shin Bet secret police from using physical force against a Palestinian detainee.

A court spokesman said the move allowed the security services to use the necessary force to get the information they needed to advance an investigation.

Israeli media reports said the detainee was a member of the militant Islamic Jihad group and had information about attacks planned against Israeli targets.

Peter Burns, a Canadian professor who is a senior member of the U.N. Human Rights body's torture committee and its rapporteur for Israel, said the decision could mean the sanctioning of torture against detainees.

"It is very disappointing that the Israeli supreme court would legitimise the use of even moderate physical force in interrogating suspected terrorists," Mr. Burns told Reuters.

"It is particularly disappointing that such a ci-

vilised society as Israel should feel the need to resort to such measures even in the face of imminent danger," he added.

"We do not see how, in the middle of an investigation, an interrogator can ensure that moderate physical pressure does not become torture," Mr. Burns said.

"There is a real risk in every interrogation where moderate physical pressure is used, it could slip into torture especially if they have a suspected terrorist and they are convinced he has information on an impending major attack."

A 1987 Israeli commission ruled the Shin Bet could use "moderate physical pressure" in interrogations and "increased physical pressure" when an attack was imminent. Human rights groups have said the commission's report sanctioned torture.

Israel has been on high alert for a possible Islamic Jihad suicide attack to mark the anniversary of the assassination of the group's leader, Fathi Shiqqi, in Malta last year. Shiqqi's killers were never caught but Palestinians blame Israel.

Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for suicide attacks in Israel which left scores of people dead.

In its ruling on Thursday Israel's supreme court said it had been convinced that the prisoner, Mohammad Adel Aziz Hamdan, held crucial information which would enable future disasters to be avoided.

The court said Hamdan's interrogators should not use methods that were against the law, but imposed no particular restrictions otherwise.

The head of Shin Bet's interrogation cell said that given information obtained over the last 24 hours Hamdan could have "vital" facts on a planned attack in Israel.

According to the official, whose name was kept secret, Hamdan has been in preventive custody for the last six weeks and it was only on Oct. 24 that the security agents suspected him of involvement in preparing attacks.

Shin Bet asked the court to annul an order it issued the day before, at the prisoner's request, preventing its interrogators from severely shaking him or using other means.

The Israeli supreme court last week prevented Shin Bet from using the heightened interrogation methods against another Palestinian after that prisoner appealed.



CRASH VICTIM: Social workers and hospital staff load a victim killed by the Nov. 12 mid-air collision of a Boeing 747 and a cargo plane onto a truck to transport the body from the northern Indian town of Charkhi Dadri to New Delhi on Friday. Indian searchers probed the scattered debris of the world's worst mid-air disaster for 51 people still missing on Friday (Reuters photo)

Peres says Arabs and Israel must work jointly

MADISON, New Jersey (AP) — Arab countries and Israel must turn away from aggression and work together to solve more pressing problems in the Middle East, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in a speech at Drex University.

"What we need to do in the Middle East is to take out the desert from the land, the salt from the water and the violence from the people and then we shall have a different future," Mr. Peres said Wednesday at the New Jersey school.

Fostering economic ties with Arab countries and helping them create jobs is more important for a lasting peace than political agreements, he said. "Politics is a matter for politicians. Economics is a matter for the people," he said.

Mr. Peres said the Middle East should work to follow the model of many Asian nations, which have experienced explosive economic growth in recent years.

Mr. Peres praised Secretary of State Warren Christopher for his contributions to Middle East negotiations and said Mr. Christopher, who announced his resignation last week, would be missed.

"He is a very honourable person trusted by all sides, has shown decency and reliability under very telling conditions, and we regret his departure from his post," Mr. Peres said.

During his speech he reflected on the difficulties of the past year, in which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated, Israel was wracked by bombings and Mr. Peres lost his bid to retain the office of prime minister to conservative leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

"You have to fight for what you believe in, and if you lose, you lose," he said.

PUK and KDP agree to continue to respect truce; U.S. gives \$11m

Status of Erbil and sharing of oil trade revenues key issues that need to be addressed in long term

ANKARA (AFP) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish factions in northern Iraq pledged to respect their Oct. 23 ceasefire at the end of U.S.-brokered peace talks here Friday.

"All participants confirmed their commitment to strengthening and making permanent the ceasefire between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau said.

"Efforts to demarcate the ceasefire line and deploy a peace monitoring force will be further expedited," he said after a second round of Ankara talks.

"Continuation of the ceasefire is important and there are no violations," said the PUK's representative in Ankara, Shafiq Saib. KDP officials also said the truce was being respected.

"The KDP and the PUK reiterated their commitment not to seek the intervention of any other forces which could aggravate their conflict or raise tensions," said a statement jointly prepared by Mr. Pelletreau and a Turkish diplomat co-chairing the talks.

This was a clear reference to Iran and Iraq, Baghdad forces supported the KDP in an August military campaign and the KDP has accused the PUK of receiving Iranian aid.

In a related development, Mr. Pelletreau said the United States would urgently grant \$11 million for aid to the people of northern Iraq.

He said most of the aid, \$7.3 million, would be used to buy wheat, with the rest for the improvement of drinking water and sanitary conditions. The aid would be distributed by U.N. agencies.

"The KDP and the PUK renewed their commitment not to disrupt civilian services for political reasons," Mr. Pelletreau said, in reference to water and electricity supplies.

"As the ceasefire is consolidated, the participants will continue to meet periodically to augment their mutual cooperation in order to produce a new stability in the region for the benefit of all of its inhabitants," he added.

Fighting raged in northern Iraq in late August as the KDP of Massud Barzani, backed by Baghdad forces, captured the Iraqi Kurd "capital" of Erbil from Jalal Talabani's PUK.

Under U.S. pressure after two months of clashes, the two Kurdish groups declared a ceasefire on Oct. 23 and pledged to seek a peaceful settlement to their dispute in a first round of Ankara talks on Oct. 31.

In addition to the two Kurdish groups, the United States and Turkey, Britain and Iraqi Turcomans have also attended the Ankara talks.

Iraq's first Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, visiting the Turkish capital on Tuesday, protested against the U.S.-brokered peace talks for northern Iraq and urged the KDP and the PUK to accept Baghdad's mediation.

The two groups have been controlling the north in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war. But a conflict over power-sharing and tax revenue erupted in 1994 and some 2,500 people have since been killed.

The status of Erbil and the sharing of KDP oil trade revenues on the Turkish border are the key issues which need to be resolved in the longer term, mediators said.

Disputes over those two key issues effectively killed a Kurdish attempt at parliamentary self-rule in northern Iraq after Western-sponsored elections in the region in 1992.

Turkish troops kill 85 rebel Kurds

Turkish troops have killed 85 separatist Kur-dish rebels in recent fighting in southeast Turkey, the Anatolia news agency said Friday.

It said 62 members of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were killed in a single clash near the Iraqi border in Hakkari province.

Twenty-three rebel Kurds were killed in several other clashes in the southeast, scene of a PKK insurgency in the last 12 years.

Anatolia said only one government troop was killed. It did not give dates for the clashes, saying only that they took place recently.

Clinton delaying most cabinet appointments until next year

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Despite efforts to renew his administration as quickly as possible U.S. President Bill Clinton will postpone most of his cabinet appointments until January, the White House said.

"We started off, I think, a little too fast paced," White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry admitted Thursday, referring to the quick appointment of a new White House chief-of-staff last week.

"That may have led to inflated expectations," he said.

The post-election period, he added, would be taken up with consultations and a vetting process of candidates to most cabinet posts.

"During the month of December, we'll be doing that type of work ... and I expect that will then lead to ... announcements ... right about the beginning of the year or early in the new year," he added.

"The inauguration date is Jan. 20th. And clearly, we want to be in a position to present names to the Senate so that we will have a team ready to go on that day," Mr. McCurry said.

He hinted, however, that appointments for a new national security team — including secretaries of state and defence — could come before year's end.

"In that area (Clinton's) thinking is much more highly advanced and we do have identified candidates and he has done interviews," Mr. McCurry said.

Mr. Clinton was widely expected to appoint a replacement for outgoing Secretary of State Warren Christopher before he leaves Friday on an 11-day tour of Asia, but Mr. McCurry suggested that was highly unlikely.

"I don't necessarily rule out that he might have a cabinet announcement before he goes. But ... I am

not going to guarantee that," the White House spokesman said.

In choosing a new cabinet, Mr. Clinton is also facing pressure from a coalition of 60 women's groups who want a fair shot at competing for cabinet posts and other high-level positions, saying female voters were instrumental in getting Mr. Clinton reelected.

"Through all the speculation of cabinet-level changes ... very few women have ever been mentioned," Anita Perez Ferguson, head of the Coalition for Women's Appointments and president of the National Women's Political Caucus, told the Washington Post.

Members of the coalition met Monday with Vice President Al Gore to discuss the role women would play in Mr. Clinton's second term in office, the daily said Friday.

Izetbegovic agrees to dismiss top officials under pressure from U.S.

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnia's president bowed to U.S. pressure on Friday and agreed to fire two senior defence officials, including one with strong ties to Iran, clearing the way for delivery of a massive shipment of American arms, a U.S. envoy said.

"President (Alija) Izetbegovic informed us and gave us the documents which would remove Deputy Minister Hasan Cengic and Minister Vladimir Soljic from office," U.S. special envoy James Pardew told Reuters in Sarajevo on Friday.

"The documents must be signed by (Muslim-Croat) federation President Kresimir Zubak before they go into effect. We have asked for an immediate meeting with Mr. Zubak to complete the process," Mr. Pardew said.

The United States is sponsoring a \$400 million "train and equip" programme in Bosnia which is intended to bring the country's fledgling Muslim-Croat federation army up to military parity with separate Bosnian Serb armed forces.

A cargo vessel with \$100 million worth of military equipment bound for Bosnia has been idling in

the Adriatic, waiting for Sarajevo to remove Mr. Cengic, since Oct. 24.

Meanwhile President Bill Clinton said he had agreed in principle to contributing U.S. troops to an extended peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

"I have decided to instruct the U.S. representative to NATO to inform our allies that in principle the U.S. will take part in the follow-on force in Bosnia," Mr. Clinton told a press conference in Washington.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) governing body, the North Atlantic Council, is to hammer out plans Monday for a follow-on force for keeping the peace in Bosnia for another year.

The plan most likely to be adopted calls for a NATO-led force of between 20,000 and 30,000 to replace the 50,000-strong Force (IFOR) when its mandate ends Dec. 20.

Meanwhile, the trial by a Bosnian Serb tribunal of Mr. Izetbegovic for alleged involvement in war crimes will open on Dec. 24, officials said in Pale Friday.

Mr. Izetbegovic was indicted of "war crimes against the civilian popula-

tion" on Sept. 11 by prosecutors in Banja Luka, the largest town in the Serb entity in Bosnia.

The charge sheet was handed over to IFOR peacekeepers in Pale along with a request to bring the accused to the trial, said Goran Neskovic, deputy justice minister in the Serb republic.

Mr. Izetbegovic is accused of having ordered the systematic persecution and killing of Serbs in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Bosnian army.

Earlier this year the head of Bosnia's collegiate presidency was also accused of visiting a camp in southern Bosnia where hundreds of Serbs were detained.

The Celebici camp was allegedly run by Zdravo Mucic, who has been indicted on charges of war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia in the Hague.

The Bosnian Serbs' war crimes commission suspects that some 30 Serbs died in the camp and have accused Mr. Izetbegovic of bearing "objective responsibility" for war crimes allegedly committed at the camp.

Iraqi paper slams Ekeus; U.N. report says human rights abuses continuing

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — An Iraqi newspaper on Friday attacked United Nations chief arms inspector Rolf Ekeus, saying he was not neutral in his dealings with Iraq.

The paper of the ruling Baath Party Al Thawra also accused Mr. Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of scrapping Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, of not telling the truth in saying that Iraq had not disclosed all its weapons.

"We would like to remind Mr. Ekeus that the mission assigned to him by the United Nations is rather technical and not political."

"Therefore, if he adds political aspect to it then he is not neutral ...," the paper said in a front-page editorial signed by its editor-in-chief Sami Mehdi.

Al Thawra was reacting to a news report in Al Itihad newspaper of the United Arab Emirates which said Mr. Ekeus was planning to tour Gulf Arab states this month to seek funds and inform them of the results of his work in Iraq.

The paper also criticised Mr. Ekeus' recent remarks that he would try a new tack with Iraqi political leaders next month in an effort to press Iraq to disclose information on unaccounted for Iraqi ballistic missiles.

"...But what takes our attention most is when he says Iraq is still concealing data and that he reached a new approach or tack that it would make his next talks in Baghdad 'decisive'."

"Mr. Ekeus is mistaken and he is not telling the truth when he says Iraq is deliberately hiding data," the paper

said.

"Human rights abuses" Arbitrary arrests, torture, and all manner of human rights abuses are still common in Iraq, according to a U.N. human rights special report released Thursday.

The report, prepared by the Netherlands' Max Van Stoel for the annual U.N. General Assembly session, concluded that "there has been no improvement in the situation of human rights" in Iraq.

The special report described how several decrees that punish some common-law violations with amputation are still in force, in violation of international norms.

And "the geographic disparities between the pace of reconstruction and availability of rations and other basic needs favours the central part of the country and clearly disfavors the south,"

according to the report.

"Beyond this basic geographic disparity also remain the clear preferences granted to specific strata of society in the pay of the government" of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Ruling "Baath Party elite, the military in general and some divisions in particular" have benefited from President Saddam's favouritism.

According to Van der Stoel, the humanitarian situation in northern Iraq worsened significantly in the wake of President Saddam's troop deployment to the area in August.

The U.N. report on human rights said fighting in northern Iraq caused extensive damage to the area and interrupted the work of international humanitarian organisations.

Boozing, smoking costlier in Ecuador

QUITO (AFP) — Smoking and drinking will get you nowhere fast, says Ecuador's President Abdala Bucaram, so he's come up with a plan to cut consumption: A staggering 1,000-per cent import tax on liquor and smokes.

"Yesterday I issued a decree locking a 1,000 per cent tax on liquors and a 1,000-per cent tax on cigarettes so that it will cost anyone who wants to buy a bottle of whisky a million sucres (about \$300)," the non-smoking, teetotaling Mr. Bucaram told reporters. "Drinks are dangerous and the Ecuadorian has got to realise that boozing and smoking leads only to self-destruction," Mr. Bucaram said.

Rushdie parties with his guards

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — British writer Salman Rushdie partied well into the night with seven bodyguards in tow after belatedly getting a European literary prize, the manager of a Copenhagen theatre-cafe said. "He was in a good mood, very open and relaxed," said Johnny Gehlsen of the cafe Promenaden, which was packed out by revellers tasting the first Christmas beer of the season. Defying the Iranian assassination order imposed on him in 1989, Mr. Rushdie sat at a window table with Danish friends and mingled with fellow patrons for two and a half hours.

Who ate what at food summit

ROME (R) — Representatives of the world's two food superpowers answered the question tormenting the assembled media at a food summit on Thursday — what were leaders eating after a day debating global hunger? The answer, in the case of U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and European Union farm chief Franz Fischler who dined together at a Rome hotel on Thursday night, was a four-course menu of fish and pasta washed down with Sauvignon.

Charles has birthday curry with lover

LONDON (R) — Britain's Prince Charles celebrated his 48th birthday by hosting a champagne and curry party with his long-time love Camilla Parker Bowles on Friday. The recently divorced heir to the throne threw the party at his country mansion on Thursday after returning from a nine-day official trip to Central Asia. The tabloids reported that Oscar winning actress Emma Thompson joined 40 other friends for the oriental theme evening that was crowned by a Indian star performance from 76-year-old Ravi Shankar.

Chinese confronts Kaifu with broken recorder

BEIJING (AP) — The delegate from China's coal belt had a tricky question for former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu: Can you help fix my Sanyo tape recorder? Waving his broken recorder in the air, Zhang Chonghui said he bought the machine to record speeches at the conference where Mr. Kaifu spoke Wednesday, but hadn't been able to use it. "My question to Mr. Kaifu is: Would you please say words to the Sanyo company? I would like to have personal compensation," Mr. Zhang, coal mining administration director in northern China and a self-proclaimed admirer of Japanese appliances, said to laughter from the audience.

7 bodies found in Nile

Cairo (R) — Divers have recovered the bodies of seven people from the cabins of a capsized tourist boat on Saturday. The bodies were found in the Nile about 580 kilometers from Luxor, passing by the town of Minya, Edfu and Esna. The bodies were found on Thursday. They were making their way to Luxor, passing by the town of Minya, Edfu and Esna. The bodies were found on Thursday. They were making their way to Luxor, passing by the town of Minya, Edfu and Esna. The bodies were found on Thursday. They were making their way to Luxor, passing by the town of Minya, Edfu and Esna.

Abbas briefs King on status of negotiations

JERUSALEM (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein was briefed on the status of negotiations between the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) executive committee member Yasser Arafat and the Israeli government on Friday.

The king, during the meeting, said that the negotiations were progressing well and that the king was optimistic about the outcome of the negotiations.

Economic aid to Jordan

Amman (R) — The Jordanian government has received a \$10 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help with the country's economic recovery.

Amman member killed while working

Amman (R) — A member of the Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) was killed while working in the West Bank on Friday.

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